

## Put up grants for research that industry needs—SRC

by David Dickson

The value of postgraduate awards for research of direct industrial interest should be increased, the Science Research Council is to propose.

The awards in question are allocated through the Cooperative Awards in Science and Engineering (CASE) scheme, under which a student carries out a research project agreed jointly by a university department and an industrial company or corporation.

After a council meeting last week, the SRC's postgraduate training advisory panel is to prepare a proposal to the DES that awards under the scheme be made considerably higher than the standard postgraduate grant. The difference could be in the region of £400, which would increase the postgraduate grant for the current year to £1,485.

The proposal is in line with the general feeling that the high salaries received by engineering graduates in industry discourages many from

remaining at university after a first degree to do research.

Although there have been objections to the higher grants—due partly to the difficulty of determining areas of national need—the council seems to see making an increase the postgraduate grant as a possible way around this problem.

It is also hoped that making the increased award to CASE students additional awards available to CASE students will encourage highly qualified postgraduates to tackle research problems more directly related to production.

The CASE scheme has itself been declining over the past few years. Although in 1972 it expanded from the more restricted CAPS (Co-operative Awards in Pure Science) scheme, only 181 out of a total of 311 CASE awards were taken up in 1973, compared with 191 out of 248 CAPS awards the previous year.

In 1974 the number of awards under the CASE scheme fell further to 162 out of 309 projects accepted.

## Problems in Beirut

continued from page 1

their ridiculously low salaries, suddenly found that they could offer the university a soft loan, subject to certain conditions—notably that the university should not send the letters of termination.

This was a desperate move, but it might have succeeded in obtaining at least one of the conditions for reopening—namely, the raising of £1,600,000. As the university had only sufficient funds to pay salaries until the end of February anyway, the faculty's decision was tantamount to a compulsory savings scheme. The sceptics, however, remained unmoved.

I decided that the best move would be to try to find alternative employment in Beirut. But with business almost entirely at a standstill, there were few openings, especially for a professor of English whose main claim to fame was a book on *The Decadent Poetry of the Eighteenth Century*.

Persistence has its rewards. After a dozen or so abortive phone calls and a handful of interviews I discovered I was a more marketable commodity than I had thought. The *Arab Economist* needed a copy editor, the previous one having taken flight. The English service of Radio Kuwait seemed to feel that 30 15-minute episodes on *The Decadent Poetry of the Eighteenth Century* might be a living attraction for its expatriate audience. *Arabic World*

conceded that an article on "Napoleon in Egypt" might claim the attention of its business readership. The future began to look less sombre.

Having secured my immediate future, I was beginning to feel rather pleased with myself, and was already convinced that writing might prove to be a more realistic way of earning a living than the one for which my academic training had prepared me. So when the news came through at the eleventh hour that the Lebanese Government would guarantee the university's liquidity during the 1975-76 academic year I actually felt let down.

Now, as I dust off my lecture notes on W. B. Yeats and the vision of a full-time journalistic career recedes, at least until this time next year, I am having to consider whether I should resign my position as copy editor at the *Arab Economist*. But 11 years' residence in Lebanon has bred caution. Besides, the emotional roller coaster of machine gunfire still rips through the night air, and the politicians continue to wrangle. And the Lebanese Government's offer to the AUB is, after all, only a loan.

But things are looking up. The students do seem to want to return to classes, so if we can persuade them not to carry their guns and rival opinions into the classroom, we might manage to hush our way through the academic year. Maybe next week will be better.

## BEd students picket Keele

Student teachers were due to picket the Keele University vice-chancellor's building yesterday in protest against the low proportion of good honours classification awarded on Bachelor of Education degree courses.

The students from Madley College of Education and Gweddau College of Higher Education say that Keele's awards are third from the bottom of a league table of good honours qualifications for the BEd degree.

They also claim that the proportion of good honours degrees awarded by Keele (23.5 per cent) is not comparable with the number of students admitted with two A-level passes to the colleges.

The dispute between Keele University and the students has continued for almost two years.

## Roehampton gets first rector

Professor Kevin Keshane, vice-principal of Chelsea College, London, and director of Chelsea's Centre for Science Education, is to become the first rector of the newly formed Roehampton Institute of Higher Education.

## Doctor criticizes campus hygiene

Students were highly ignorant in matters of personal hygiene and health, Dr Alex Gunn, director of the health service at Reading University, said last week.

At a conference of health educators in London, Dr Gunn blamed the spread of health education in schools for the low level of awareness. He said that students would complain of "dizziness" when walking about on "collars" with no idea what it was.

Students who had been protected at home could not look after their own property. At some time during their three years, 50 per cent would suffer some form of fungal infection. This often resulted from too frequent washing and changing of clothes, or "sweating" in someone else's bed or sleeping bag.

## Environment director named

Professor Christopher Foster, of the London School of Economics, has been appointed director of the Centre for Environmental Studies, an independent research body in the field of planning and urban studies.

## Graduates 'see no purpose in careers'

Many graduates are failing to find a sense of purpose in traditional careers, Mr Colin Shipper, chief careers adviser at Newcastle University, says in his annual report, published this week.

There is a need, he claims, for the Department of Employment to carry out investigations into graduate job enrichment.

The public service, through expanding graduate recruitment, has offered a more secure and better paid alternative to industry. Between 1973 and 1975 the number of Newcastle graduates entering the public service doubled from 78 to 168, whilst the numbers entering private industry and commerce dropped by 25 per cent from 243 to 186.

Some Newcastle graduates have not found fulfilment from their public service jobs. Feedback from a number of former students employed in the executive ranks of the Civil Service indicates a marked lack of job satisfaction.

They do not feel that they are doing something worthwhile which has a proper regard for the public whom in theory they serve, says the report.

In addition, undergraduates seeking employment in the social services are sometimes deterred by what they regard as town hall bureaucracy. Two notable exceptions are the hospital service and housing management.

Students are even questioning the long-held assumption that teaching is a worthwhile career. They seem to feel that comprehensive reorganization, unrestrained classes and other changes in education are making the teacher's life too full of frustration and obstacles.

At the same time, a "renewal of an unreasoned belief" among some students that the satisfaction they seek cannot be found in commerce or industry. Some are suspicious of the profit motive in private industry, others feel high taxation and heavy industrial relations hamper personal progress and fulfilment.

This is not to imply that Newcastle's students are all "starry-eyed idealists reluctant to put their feet on the unpleasant real ground," says Mr Shipper.

"Certainly they now tackle their career-seeking with a more serious-minded, even earnest, attitude than did their predecessors of 10 years ago. Very few maintain that the world owes them a living, or are arrogant with employers."

The Department of Employment has recommended that the group on job satisfaction to investigate the whole problem of what leads to frustration at work and what gives job satisfaction, but the emphasis at present is on manual and clerical jobs.

## Strathclyde sends fewer to industry

Strathclyde University, a former college of advanced technology, is sending fewer graduates to industry and commerce, says a recent survey.

A higher proportion of its students went into public service and teaching jobs in 1975 it was found. The Strathclyde student advisory service report on graduate employment said that although the job market remained stable during 1975, graduates showed uncertainty about taking industrial or commercial jobs.

It added that science graduates seemed most disenchanted with industry, preferring posts in personnel management, administration, accountancy and teaching.

## CLP not PCL

The headline in last week's *Times* "Amplifiers named for PCL" might have been said that the City of London Polytechnic (CLP).

## Manchester stays in NUS, referendum decides

by Frances Gibb

Manchester students have voted by a clear majority to stay in the National Union of Students. The decision this week brings the number of unions who have voted not to leave the NUS to four.

The referendum at Manchester, with 1,694 votes in favour of leaving and 2,128 against, overthrows last week's single vote decision (547 to 546) to leave the NUS. It was decided to hold a referendum instead of a recount.

The result at Manchester, one of the largest unions, will probably quell the movement for disaffiliation. It follows a similar decision at Keele last week, the voters up an overwhelming majority of 300 to 50 to stay in the NUS to four.

Several student unions have been considering leaving the NUS in protest against its political and financial policies. St Andrews University voted recently by an overwhelming majority to break away from the NUS.

St Andrews University has also decided to leave the NUS, but Mr Mark Haggard, chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students, said he thought that Conservative policy, which is to remain within the NUS and change from within, had influenced students sufficiently to prevent decisions to withdraw.

Other unions who may soon be considering the issue are Loughborough, Liverpool, Nottingham, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Heriot and Strathclyde.

Mr Charles Clarke, president of the NUS, told students that the disaffiliation of some unions was based on incorrect assumptions about the decisions of governments and that there could have no real influence on political decisions.

A strong National Union of Students was particularly needed at a time of economic hardship, when there were cuts in education, rising and high unemployment.

Since Aston's decision to leave the NUS, 19 colleges had applied for membership to the NUS. The union announced this week that it had accepted 17 of them.

The White Paper, which covers the period 1978-80 and which contains two recent reports in the *Times*, says that the spending projections allow for an expansion of student numbers on full-time and sandwich courses to 600,000 in Great Britain by 1981. Until yesterday the official target had been 640,000.

It adds that although several factors make for uncertainty in forecasting student demand, some increase in competition for entry in some subjects is implied. The proportion of the age group entering higher education is expected to rise from 14 to 15 per cent (instead of 17 per cent in Mrs Thatcher's 1972 White Paper).

The planned level of spending will require a progressively more effective use of resources. In particular, there will be little if any scope for increasing total staff numbers after 1976-77. Capital expenditure on new buildings, including new purpose-built students' residences, will continue to be severely restricted and the intensive use of available premises will be required.

The paper says that although demand for non-advanced further education is difficult to estimate, demand is growing more rapidly than expected a year ago and the Government assumes that local education authorities will try to meet it, particularly for 16 to 19-year-olds. More intensive use of staff and buildings will nevertheless be required.

According to the White Paper, planned education spending is to be cut by £618m in 1979. It means that for the first time in recent years education budget will actually shrink.

The teaching force in schools will be held at 464,000 after 1977 instead of 470,000.

## Buckingham finds London ally

by Annabel Ferriman

The Conservative-controlled London Borough of Redbridge has become the first local authority to offer maintenance grants to students attending at University College, London.

The borough's education committee has agreed to pay student tuition fees up to £225. The tuition fees at present are over £1,500.

Councillor John Telford, the education chairman, said the committee was delighted to be the first to approve grants for the independent university.

## Now the pips really are squeaking

by Sue Cameron

A difficult period of retrenchment for staff and students in universities, colleges and polytechnics was announced by the Government yesterday in its annual review of public expenditure. It will mean a drop of about 4 per cent in student unit costs, fiercer competition for university entry, and a virtual standstill on the recruitment of academic staff.

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## St Andrews man stands for treasurer

Mr Chris Morgan, former deputy president of St Andrews University Students' union, will be standing as a Broad Left candidate for national treasurer in the election to the National Union of Students at the end of the year.

His nomination was agreed by the Broad Left caucus for the annual National Union of Students elections at that Easter conference in London. He has taken out individual membership of the union so that he can remain in office, if elected, after the end of December.

Another new contender for the top four posts in NUS, which carry annual salaries of £3,200 a year, is Mr Peter Ashby, former Broad Left president of Keele University.

He will be the group's candidate for deputy president, replacing Mr Alan Stewart, who is retiring from student politics to take a law degree at the University of London.

Mr Charles Clarke and Mr Shipman will both be seeking reelection as president and vice-president respectively.

Mr Trevor Phillips, president of the University of London Union, is standing for vice-president of the Polytechnic Union, and Mr Lloyd of Liverpool University is standing for vice-president of the International Socialist group.

The International Socialist group also chose their candidates.

Mr Peter Gillard, standing for vice-president of the Polytechnic Union, is also a candidate for vice-president of the International Socialist group.

Mr Hugh Lanning, a student Socialist, will be running as a second term as treasurer of the National Socialist candidate.

Mr Peter Ashby, former Broad Left president of Keele University, is also a candidate for deputy president of the National Union of Students.

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## New turns in overseas students debate in London and Plymouth

## ILEA wants proportion cut to 10 per cent

by Frances Hill

The Inner London Education Authority is considering reducing the proportion of overseas students in its colleges from 25 to 10 per cent over the next six years.

The aim is to release resources and accommodation for those who live and work in London, particularly the "less able, the disadvantaged and the unemployed school leaver."

The cost of overseas students is heavily subsidised by ratepayers... and we as an authority can no longer carry an ever-increasing financial burden," said Mrs. Janey Rees, chairman of ILEA's further and higher education sub-committee.

If the proposal is accepted ILEA will have any increase in the number of overseas students limited to 10 per cent next September, and begin reducing the proportion over a five-year period beginning in September 1977.

An ILEA report including the recommendations will be presented to the sub-committee at a meeting on Wednesday.

The proposed changes would involve a reduction from the present level of 8,000 students to around 4,000 by 1982. The 10 per cent figure will cover the authority's colleges as a whole; individual

colleges might have more or less than 10 per cent.

An ILEA consultative document shows that one quarter of all further and higher education students from abroad (except in universities) study in ILEA colleges. The number of overseas students in these colleges has risen by about 900 in the current academic year, an increase of 11 per cent over the previous year. Over the past two years the increase has been 36 per cent.

The gross cost of educating students from abroad in inner London colleges is about £14.5m a year. Fees paid by the students amount to £2.2m. The cost to the authority is subsidised by central government through the rate support grant, which is paid to the inner London boroughs. But students on advanced courses (one third of overseas students in London) do not count towards the calculation of the rate support grant education units.

ILEA's consultative document claims that the "rate-horse subsidy" for overseas students is a form of overseas aid which should be met centrally. It says that approaches have been made to the Ministry of Overseas Development and the Department of Education and Science at ministerial level on the issue.

"cost" the educational system some £120m a year, an amount which would be met centrally. It says that approaches have been made to the Ministry of Overseas Development and the Department of Education and Science at ministerial level on the issue.

Courses which would continue to run irrespective of the presence or otherwise of overseas students would cost as much with the removal of students from abroad.

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## Scheme would mean no fees for main exchange countries

by Frances Hill

The Department of Education and Science is considering a scheme whereby overseas students from countries which have many student exchanges with Britain will not have to pay tuition fees.

The idea has been put forward by the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges as a way both of easing the problem of overseas students' fees and of encouraging more student exchange.

Miss Judy Powell, head of the bureau's further and higher education department, said the system would not entail balancing numbers of students visiting each country.

"It is more important to establish the system on a principle first," she said. "Then the counting of heads can go on. This sort of arrangement could remove a lot of paperwork. The scheme was already taking place between individual institutions on an informal basis, she said.

One country where the scheme might be implemented is France. More British students currently study in France than vice versa. This is partly because of the higher tuition fees in Britain, but also because of the high quality of the French education system.

British students in France are increasingly being required to pay a higher cost for courses which they need to take.

The French had agreed in principle, Miss Powell said. The scheme had yet to be considered by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics, however.

## Crisis must not affect poly standards, CNA head says

by David Hencke

Education faces a period of little growth and deferred hopes, Sir Michael Clapham, chairman of the Council for National Academic Awards, warned at the City of London Polytechnic graduation ceremony last week.

He said that Britain was in a "bloody mess". The economic troubles which beset the world, and which beset this country more than most developed countries, put a question mark against the future development of education and no less against the future of every one of us.

Britain was undergoing a slump as bad as the 1930s, although the economic cycle could improve next year, 1976 was going to be hard. "Resources for public expenditure will be short, which will check the advance of education; employment will be hard to get and to keep, which will mean a lot of all of you leaving education for another stage in your career, and hardship for some."

Sir Michael said that education should use this period to consolidate its position and try to give a better service within existing budgets since it would lack resources to expand.

"In the polytechnic field we must concentrate on maintaining standards; we must not make the mistake of starting new courses for which we cannot provide the resources. I think that I can safely speak for the CNA in saying that we shall not relax standards."

Sir Michael also told students not to be disappointed if they did not find the right job after graduating.

Dr Arthur Suddaby, provost of the City of London Polytechnic, defended the development of the polytechnics over the last decade.

He attacked critics who said that the polytechnics were aping the universities, warning that the polytechnics pursued quite a different role.

Dr Suddaby, who is also vice-chairman of the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics, became chairman of the CDP after resigning when Sir Alex Smith, director of Manchester Polytechnic, steps down.

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## Classics lose ground to myth

The classics have lost ground in schools and universities but "classical studies" are in the ascendant. The study of Greek and Roman history, culture and myth has become much more widespread in institutions of higher education in the last five years, according to a recent survey by the British Association of Classical Scholars.

More students take Latin and Greek at university but need some knowledge of Greek and Roman literature and civilisation to do so successfully. The study of other subjects, the Bulletin says.

The result, 20 universities have introduced foundation courses in classical studies which have proved so attractive that several universities have gone on to offer the subjects as a subsidiary in other subjects.

More in-depth and combined courses in classical studies will be offered in the next few years, the Bulletin predicts, even though it is doubtful if universities about whether a course in classical studies can have sufficient intellectual rigour to constitute a half a degree in a subject like English or history.

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of the kind, usual in courses on ancient history."

A further difficulty about teaching classical studies to older pupils and students is that of conveying to those who cannot read the original languages a sufficiently accurate idea of how Greeks and Romans thought and wrote.

The current state of affairs in polytechnics is not easy to assess, the Bulletin says. Many give classical studies an important place in their foundation or background studies, but it is not yet clear whether they see it as a main or independent subject.

The case for giving classical studies subject status in colleges of education is now very strong.

At present seven colleges give some place to classical studies. At level 33 include some classical studies within history courses; 21 in five in drama; eight in art; five in dance; and eight in other subjects.

Teaching Classical Studies Schools Council Curriculum Bulletin 6 report from a working party of the Schools Council Classical Committee, chaired by Professor R. A. Croxall, published by the Schools Council, 1975.

## Science will soon know 'in the mind'

by John Ross

Biologists and psychologists in the next century will achieve understanding and control of mental processes, Professor Stonier, professor of psychology at the University of York, predicted this week.

In his inaugural lecture, Natural History of Humanity: Present and Future, Professor Stonier examined social, psychological, and cultural changes of six areas: the paleolithic, neolithic, agricultural, industrial, and post-industrial, and communication era in the 21st century.

This era would achieve biological organization of a global nature and would be characterized by enormous strides in understanding, he said.

Fields will combine to create accurate models of society functioning.

More important, biologists will be able to use such memory, the ability to store information, and the ability to process information, to create a new psychology, he said.

There is no real problem with places or courses, he said. "Overseas students tend to go on technical and scientific courses which are very rarely filled."

This view was supported by student president Graham Cook.

Like Mr Cross he spoke in terms of an obligation to the visitors: "There are no problems because they want to study subjects which will help their countries. After thousands of years of exploitation it is the least we can do."

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## Cambridge academics answer attacks on 'useless' research in arts

by Alan Munton

Senior Cambridge academics have defended postgraduate research in the arts against attacks from MPs who described such work as not being "useful".

In evidence submitted to the University Grants Committee, they say that the recommendations of the parliamentary committee on postgraduate education, which appeared in 1974, were "a matter of serious concern" to the arts faculties in Cambridge.

"Most graduate studies in arts subjects would disappear if the recommendations were implemented," the academics told the UGC during its recent visit to Cambridge.

In their report the MPs recommended that non-vocational postgraduate research should be discouraged, and that vocational courses leading to entry to a career should be promoted.

Postgraduate research by students without career experience should be considerably reduced, they said, and there should be a stress on vocational courses, and the UGC should ensure that an increasing proportion of postgraduates already had career experience before beginning their research.

In a vigorous defence of the value of postgraduate research in the arts, academics, who included professors, heads of departments and chairmen of faculties, say that arts research is useful, though its importance may not be immediately apparent.

They told the UGC that "training in research is an important educational process and must not be regarded simply in terms of vocational training. Research is intrinsically bound up with teaching and a faculty or department which does not produce worthwhile research is unlikely to excel in teaching."

The submission continues: "A considerable part of the research in arts subjects has a 'useful' value even though it may not be immediately obvious. It is essential for the community that research of this kind should be carried out because it contributes to the creation and criticism of standards and to the judgment of what is personally and socially worthwhile."

In a separate statement, Professor Raymond Williams, former chairman of the English faculty, says that some reduction in the numbers of graduate students had already taken place, and that any further reduction would have damaging long-term effects on the general teaching of

the subject, both within Cambridge and nationally.

● The threat by 17 teachers in the English faculty at Cambridge University to refuse to examine in 1977 unless there is an improvement in the conditions of college teaching of the subject has led to a proposal to set up a committee which would examine the problem throughout the university.

Several large departments are faced by the problem of too many students and too few available or qualified teachers to conduct small group tuition. English is at present worst affected, but history and French are other subjects in which an unfavourable staff-student ratio is likely to lead to difficulties.

This is acknowledged in submissions made recently to the University Grants Committee by senior academic staff in arts subjects.

Medium-sized faculties are also facing difficulties in some areas of their teaching. The arts subcommittee of the UGC was told that strain could be avoided if they could employ staff, or if some work could be found to limit the number of their students.

The current difficulties in arts faculties at Cambridge have been increased by a doubling of the number of women students since 1963.

John Holloway page 11

## Government 'policy of lunacy' on closure of colleges

by Jane Feinmann

The Government no longer has a philosophy of educational cuts, but openly admits it is solely a matter of economics, according to Sue Slipman, secretary of the National Union of Students.

She was speaking at a rally organized by the University of London Institute of Education Students Association last Friday as part of the NUS national day of protest against cuts in educational spending and in particular against the proposed closure in 1978 of three London colleges of education.

Miss Slipman said that the next Government educational expenditure report was likely to announce the closure of 20 more colleges. This time it would not even officially be due to the falling birthrate but because the colleges had under 400 students.

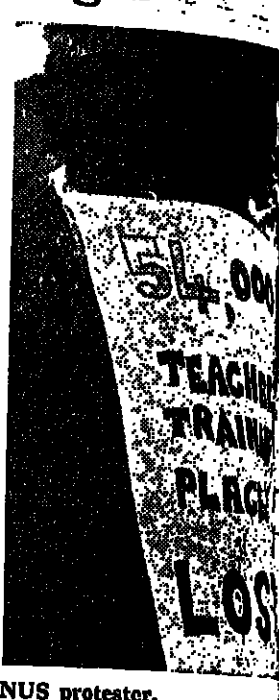
She said that many local education authorities were going to cut their budgets. For instance, Surrey L.E.A. was planning to cut its educational budget by £2,500,000 by cutting back on school building and maintenance, nursery and remedial education, and closing teachers' centres and libraries.

This would create a cycle of deprivation which would result in a lowered demand for higher and further education. The Government would then use this drop in demand as an argument for cutting back on higher education, just as it was now closing colleges of education because they did not have enough students.

Government policy was resulting in a reversal of the principle, now long established, that all those with the need should be able to participate in higher education. "Now we are beginning to see the rebirth of the argument that only those who are financially eligible will qualify," she said.

Mr Roger Jenkinson, of the newly formed National Association for Teachers in Further and Higher Education, said that it was most likely that NATFHE, which was formed last month, would take a strong line on cuts in educational spending.

Of the two former unions which



NUS protesters.

had joined forces, the Association of Teachers in Colleges and the Association of Teachers in Schools, the need for the cuts and the need for the cuts and the need for the cuts.

"I suspect that NATFHE will be the cuts that we have been officially formulated for solidarity among education unions and with the TUC. I want to fight the cuts, we must exercise some control over the cuts, we must look not just to the trial working class for support."

The National Union of Students are organizing a national demonstration to protest against the cuts by MPs in London on February 27.

## 'Get jobless into study' call

by Frances Hill

Adult education centres do not have a significant number of unemployed people among their students, according to Mr David Head, tutor in community studies at the City Literary Institute, London.

Writing in the latest issue of *Adult Education*, he says that the practical difficulty in attracting the unemployed is that employment exchanges cannot advertise adult classes taking place during the day, since that time people are supposed to be looking for work.

Mr Head suggests that adult educators should prepare special leaflets advertising evening classes only, and these should be displayed in exchanges. But he adds that this provision could be a "boon to many" since it is when others are working that jobless people feel most isolated, distressed and useless.

This provision could perhaps be made to take the form of less formal workshops.

Adult education should look at ways of making learning experiences central to the needs of the unemployed, Mr Head suggests. Adult centres should discover what work is available in their neighbourhood, perhaps becoming like the Kensington Institute, which has been more concerned with action

research than with the last course pattern.

The Kensington Institute resorted to a study group on local employment to look critically at the needs of industrial and local place, bringing employers, planners, local politicians together to encourage initiatives for new jobs in the area.

This initiative led to the setting up of a six-week course for unemployed in cooperation with the Hampermill employment exchange and the Addison Institute.

The course aimed at providing unemployed people with support, shared experience and information, and a glimpse of adult education centre in action.

The meetings took the form of mutual counselling on jobless retraining and benefits, and a discussion of educational courses.

The course came to end on six weeks as planned. Although new members had joined, it was felt that the group had "lived a life of its own" and a useful line of action, and on "showing that to the group was designed to help people eager to find a kind of work, its success was clear."

## University's cancer advance

A major advance in cancer research was announced this week by Newcastle University. A team led by Professor John Owen, head of the department of anatomy, has developed a new method of growing cancer cells in the laboratory, at low temperatures, storing them at low temperatures, and then freezing them.

Professor Owen said that the team had been working for two years on this problem, and that the new method had been developed by using a special kind of freezing process. The cells, derived from fluid taken out of deep frozen patients, continue to grow and divide when thawed.

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## Don's diary

### Saturday

So into the university for 24 hours so to catch up on the journals in the reading room. This has to be done religiously once a week, or the load becomes too intimidating. When that happens I find myself slipping rapidly through the index of each journal in turn, hoping there will be nothing I should read. I have found myself being less than honest when deciding whether a journal should be read or not, thus making nonsense of the whole process.

At about 5 pm, I, my wife, and two friends set off for the RSC's production of *Henry IV, part II*. The same group of us saw *part I* at Stratford last summer.

### Sunday

A lazy morning; I wake late and get up late after our return in the small hours. We enjoyed the play. For me, both productions have reestablished plays which I was beginning to think were not as important as I sometimes argued. I suspect this is because of Brewster Mason's merciful restraint as Falsstaff, not much liked by the Stratford critics as I recall, and Emrys James's human, frail, loving father, a king, co-governor, of course, with the excellent Alan Howard as Hal and the general evenness of the playing.

I am currently involved in an embryonic collaboration with a colleague from molecular sciences. Lack of financial support has meant that the collaboration so far is rather lopsided—I borrow his tunable dye-laser when, and if, I can. The uncertainties, complexities and irrationalities of experimental research mean that it is uncertain until the last moment whether we shall get the laser even when the apparatus is forever set up in a state when it is ready to work as soon as the laser is installed, then being switched off because the laser cannot come.

A good deal of experimental research is like that, even when borrowing from colleagues who are involved. Apart from which, my research over the past couple of years or so has been a living memory to the old Hindu proverb: "When your crops have failed, your chickens have died from fowl pest and your neighbour is not to be having congress with your wife, Vishnu says there is no reason why your house should not catch fire."

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### Monday

Help install the tunable dye-laser, then give a third year option lecture to a class almost unanimously small proportions.

Spend all afternoon in the second year optics laboratory. There is little to do; the students cope well, and the afternoon seems very long. I make two or three quick trips to my own laboratory to check progress. It looks as if a real start can be made tomorrow. Pumps and filling systems are arranged to run all night, and we escape to dinner.

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### Thursday

Begin the day with another third-year option lecture. Think for a moment the class has now completely vanished, but it is merely late. Back to lab for most of the day. All goes well, and it's been an unusually useful 24 hours. Meanwhile all kinds of paperwork has piled up on my desk but it will have to wait for colleagues.

The evening is spent at Priory School talking to the teachers who take my elder son. We all queue at each desk in turn; half of those queuing seem to be colleagues.

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### Tuesday

The day begins with the ninth and final lecture. Postgraduate students attend two basic courses, one on quantum mechanics and the other on the use of students on atomic physics. They are given a minimum of five courses and a maximum of five courses of slightly longer.

I have given this course at the rate of four lectures a week to place the why for my own research. I think this is a very good approach, and the students as well. I have been involved with the problems of the laser and no time is wasted picking up threads inevitably, I have

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and no old. I heard it suggested recently that the problem is not simply age but that there is a lack of eccentricity and everyone is too reasonable and balanced.

### Friday

Leave Lewes on the 10.25 am to Victoria heading for the Rutherford Laboratory, Didcot. The Science Research Council recently announced that they would provide nearly £6m over the next six years to fund a "high power laser facility". I knew nothing of the project until it was in the United States in the summer of 1974 when people to whom it appeared to be common knowledge asked my opinion about what was planned.

I heard no more until getting an invitation, at 36 hours' notice, to attend a meeting at the Rutherford Laboratory last week. At that time it was planned that a project on laser compression would be funded equally by UKAEA and the SRC. Some of the experiments would be classified and the facility stationed in security terms behind the wire. This, and the knowledge that the SRC would spend \$40m per annum on laser fusion, and \$500m on laser research in general (Times, January 8, 1976), and that a recent article in *Science* says the US programme on fusion is really for bomb research, gives one food for thought.

A persistent Royal Society held a one-day meeting on the so-called "central laser facility". Some where along the line the collaboration with the Atomic Energy Authority had disappeared, although the scientific case was published by the SRC had not changed to reflect this in any way.

Large numbers were present at this meeting and it was good to see from the questions that many did not accept that the SRC was funding what is a "consensus" of laser physicists wanted. It became clear, too, that the suggestions made at this and the earlier meeting about other projects that might be incorporated were entirely national, however much they appeared to be welcomed. The available money was to carry out work on laser compression; period.

Under some pressure now, Professor Sir Sam Edwards said that if other laser physicists wanted the SRC to fund a central facility to do something else it was up to them to make the case. The meeting to do this was set for tomorrow morning. I discovered the needs of the university community in this respect. What a pity the SRC did not think it proper to hold a wide ranging open discussion among all laser physicists before it committed itself to one specific project; particularly one supposed to be a "national facility".

My golden rule is always to use the opportunity when an official job takes me to London. So, I shall see the Thracian treasures at the British Museum on the way back from Didcot on Saturday afternoon, and in the evening complete the SRC trilogy by seeing *Henry V*. Here we go again.

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### Les Allen

The author is Reader in Experimental Physics at the University of Sussex.

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## Mr Walker's mistake on environment



ERIC ASHBY

"Having sabotaged our prospects of a better environment, the British Government is about to sabotage the efforts of Europe." So, according to *The Times*, said Mr Peter Walker, formerly Secretary of State for the Environment.

The occasion for this surprising remark was the disclosure that Britain could not accept without amendment a proposal from the EEC commission on "the education of pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community".

Members of Her Majesty's Opposition are in duty bound to criticize, not to say deride, the efforts of the Government. And citizens of Her Majesty's realm are in duty bound, too, to expose this criticism if they think it is ill founded, not to say deceptive. Hence the following paragraphs.

The heads of state of the European Community, meeting in Paris in October 1972, issued the following splendid statement: "As befits the genius of Europe, particular attention will be given to intangible values and to protecting the environment."

They invited the Community to prepare a programme to turn these words into action, which the Community duly did, embodying its ideas in a 53-page declaration, published in December, 1973. This is the basis of the EEC's environmental policy. When Britain entered the Community she became bound by this policy.

Member countries undertake to ensure protection of the biosphere, to maintain a satisfactory ecological balance, to improve the quality of life at the lowest cost to the Community, to share pollution at a level that befits the type of pollution and the geographical zone to be protected, and to embark on a vigorous campaign of education to make the citizen more aware of their responsibilities towards the environment.

Britain had already undertaken all these responsibilities and she entered the Community with a proud record of achievement in all of them (except, arguably, the last: education).

So far, so good. Then the Commission got to work to issue, as planned, draft directives about water, air, and noise. What was taken for the abatement of specific pollutants; and this is when the trouble began.

Broadly there are two strategies for controlling the discharge of water into the environment. One strategy is to set rigid obligatory limits to the amount of pollutant discharged from the sewer or the chimney (known as effluent or emission standards); the other is to set quality objectives for the water or air into which the wastes are discharged.

Politically, effluent and emission standards are an attractive proposition. It is tidy and simple to decree that suspended solids in the effluent from wood pulp mills must not exceed 50 kilos per tonne of product, whether the sewer discharges into the Rhine or the Mediterranean or the Atlantic Ocean. But scientifically it is nonsense, for it ignores the vast differences in dispersion and dilution of the effluent, which might be a continuous contamination in the Rhine would be likely to have no perceptible effect whatever upon the Atlantic Ocean.

Scientifically, quality objectives are the better strategy. On one hand they comply with the EEC's intent to protect the environment; on the other hand they leave it to the member countries to do this in the most economical way. It is a decision which is regularly taken by a discerning authority that befits the type of pollution and the geographical zone to be protected.

The overall result will be a better deployment throughout Europe of the limited funds available to protect the environment. This is what Mr Peter Walker called "sabotage".

Lord Ashby was chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

But politically (in the context of Common Market politics) a strategy of defining quality objectives is not so attractive, for it enables the wood pulp mill in Scotland to spend less on its effluent than the mill on the Rhine; and this (pleads the Commission) would constitute a "distortion of trade".

The EEC Declaration has nothing to say about how the environment is to be protected, ie, about which of those two strategies is to be used. But the Commission set out to impose, for effluents into rivers and the sea, blanket uniform standards to effect what was called "harmonization" of practice from the Orkneys to Sicily.

In other words, although the purpose is to control the quality of the environment, member countries were to be obliged to do so by adopting uniform effluent standards without regard to the capacity of the environment to cope with the wastes or into it. Drift directives on these lines were issued for water quality, drinking water, bathing beaches, wood pulp, and titanium dioxide production. For Britain to acquiesce in this imposition of blanket standards for effluents would have been in the first place to ignore all the scientific evidence which makes nonsense of such standards. In the second place it would have loaded a massive cost upon Britain (hundreds of millions of pounds); money which could be deployed far more effectively by concentrating it upon the remaining genuine danger areas in the British environment.

The British representatives tried to persuade the Commission of the efficacy of the pragmatic case-by-case procedures for abating pollution in Britain.

But the Commission stubbornly refused to budge, and returned to the attack by claiming that its purpose was also to prevent distortion of trade; a phoney argument for, if this is to be the principle, it should apply also to the "harmful" auction of wage rates, transport costs, raw material costs, and all the rest of the economic ingredients of industry.

The matter came to a head over a corrective proposal to exclude, rightly or not, to exclude altogether, the release of a so-called "black list" of dangerous substances into any water anywhere in the Community.

The black list comprised eight categories: organic compounds or halogens (such as DDT) or phosphorus or tin; mercury; cadmium; persistent mineral oils; carcinogenic substances (asbestos, lead, and persistent organic substances which may float). To watch carefully for any undue release of these substances to monitor possible danger spots where some of them might be released, to impose, through the consent which have to be given by Regional Water Authorities, constraints and if necessary prohibitions against the release of such substances (and others, not on the black list) all this is already being done, even though imperfectly, and every year sees some improvement in control.

But to spend what would undoubtedly be a vast sum and effort to eliminate discharges of all the black list substances, when there is no evidence that they are accumulating in the environment or are putting the health of man, creatures, or plants at risk, and to do so to the expense of substances not on the EEC's black list (such as lead) where there really is need for better pollution control; that would be a gross and irresponsible disservice to the environment, to the quality of life of British people, and (a matter which should be of some concern to Mr Peter Walker) to British industry.

It was this consideration, which led the British Government to challenge the abstruse policy of the EEC Commission in its insistence that the European environment must be protected by the use of blanket effluent standards and not by the setting of agreed environmental quality objectives which each member country achieves in its own way.

And over the notorious black list of substances, the Council of Ministers has conceded the British case. By a decision made on December 8, 1975, member states may now choose to exercise control through quality objectives to be regularly monitored, or through fixed effluent standards.

The overall result will be a better deployment throughout Europe of the limited funds available to protect the environment. This is what Mr Peter Walker called "sabotage".

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## NORTH AMERICAN NEWS

MICHAEL BINNOM reports from Washington

## Independent colleges to form pressure group

Small independent colleges, the sector of American education most threatened by inflation, falling student numbers, and soaring fees, are to band together into a new association to lobby for support and money.

At a meeting in Philadelphia last week, about 300 college presidents and representatives, mainly from liberal arts colleges with less than 2,000 students, voted to set up the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. The association will join more than a score of similar bodies in Washington which lobby, often very effectively, for various education interest groups.

Small colleges feel strongly that unless they can put their cases more effectively there will soon be no place for them. Thirty years ago half America's students were at private colleges, and the rest were in state institutions. Today the figure for private colleges is about 23 per cent, and is expected to fall to about 15 per cent in the next decade.

"We're losing, and it's time to quit talking about whether we need help — clearly we do," said Dr

William Proctor, president of Flagler, a private college in Florida. "If we're going to lose this battle, we're not going down without a fight."

The colleges mostly belong to several organizations representing the liberal arts and private institutions, but they have increasingly felt that no group speaks exclusively for them. The new association will include among its directors two of the most powerful and dynamic figures in private education at the moment: Dr Steven Muller, president of Johns Hopkins University, is to be chairman of the board; and Dr John Silber, president of Boston University, will be one of the directors.

Dr Proctor said he believed a prime task for the association would be to persuade state legislatures to stop the proliferation of public universities. This left little money and few students for the private colleges, which were essential to the diversity of American higher education.

Dr Silber said that with the decline in birthrate, there would be about a million less students in college by the mid-1980s. "There will be academic ghost towns all over America," he said. "It will not be possible to save all the private colleges."

## Student reports rule sent for revision

Regulations concerning a Congressional Bill that has caused universities more confusion and irritation than almost any other have been unexpectedly sent back for further revision by Mr David Matthews, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

The regulations deal with the Buckley amendment, allowing students access to their personal files at colleges and universities. The amendment was originally proposed, in January last year, almost as an afterthought, by the Conservative Senator James Buckley. It was tacked on to the 1974 Education Act and immediately raised a storm of protest.

There were fears that by allowing students to see confidential recommendations, teachers and counsellors would write increasingly bland and non-committal reports knowing that these might eventually be read by the students concerned. Universities in turn would place increased emphasis on grades and test scores in admitting new students.

## Virginia storm over race bar club

A row at the historic University of Virginia over the university president's membership of a racist club has been defused by his resignation from the club last week.

President Frank H. Johnson was a member of the Farmington Country Club, an elegant building designed (like the university) by Thomas Jefferson. The club, however, would not admit blacks as members or guests.

Mr Johnson drew up a petition, signed by 400 club members, that the club admit blacks as guests, but the board overwhelmingly rejected the petition last Monday and Mr Johnson, together with the rector of the university and a former president, promptly resigned.

## Diefenbaker papers fund does well

The University of Saskatchewan has raised more than a quarter of the \$1 million it is seeking for a centre to house the papers of Canada's former Conservative Prime Minister, Mr John Diefenbaker. The money has come from private contributions.

The centre is due to be opened by Mr Diefenbaker, who is now 80, in September. It will house all the records of Mr Diefenbaker's premiership from 1957-63, as well as an Institute of Northern Studies which will deal with Eskimo affairs.

The university has been given a grant by the province of Saskatchewan in addition to the public appeal. Construction of the building began last year.

## 'Modulized' maths to beat the calculator

While the debate about the declining writing ability of students gathers momentum, fresh evidence of falling achievement in mathematics is also stirring controversy.

As with the writing problems, all kinds of causes are suggested: poor discipline in schools, not enough homework, confusion over standards and goals. But two extra factors have been blamed for a particular decline in mathematics: the introduction, rather half-heartedly, of new maths, and the sudden widespread use of pocket calculators.

San Diego State University believes it has found a solution: what it calls the "modulized" system of instruction. Each year students arrive more poorly prepared in mathematics, says Professor Herb Gindler, from the Department of Mathematics. But increasing numbers need mathematics as more and more subjects apply mathematical techniques to their problems. Also, precalculus remedial courses are usually taught by the least experienced teachers. So the solution calls for individual instruction.

Most teachers, Professor Gindler says, think this means audio-tutorial instruction, study skills centres, and systems requiring expensive equipment that cannot be bought in any financial circumstances. Mathematicians especially fear this would lead to a dilution of the subject matter with a whole range of mini-courses.

But San Diego has worked out a scheme that uses only available private equipment and does not lower the passing grade.

The module system divides up the course—in this case, intermediate algebra—into 18 parts. Students have to show they can manage each unit before passing on to the next, and they receive the study guide for the next unit as a reward for passing the previous one. Mastery of each unit is set at 90 per cent, with a minimum of 80 per cent correct answers.

"Proctors"—usually other undergraduate students—grade tests and do a certain amount of tutoring. Each student chooses a proctor at the beginning of the course, but can have his test graded by any other proctor. He has to attend class at least once a week.

The study guides tell students how to master particular objectives, but the scheme does not include any lectures, not even for motivated pupils. Students do not want these, Professor Gindler says, they are already behind in their mathematics, and are too busy learning the material to waste time on "non-essential frills".

A computer sets the tests for each unit, and 3,000 questions were written and fed in, and the computer can set a different though equivalent test, for each student if necessary. There is no expensive audio-tutorial, and San Diego has found it can handle 90 or 100 students an hour in two standard classrooms.

Students take the tests whenever they feel prepared for them. Repeats are allowed if necessary. Other colleges and universities in the California state system make use of the test bank, and at least four are planning to use the test and study guides to individualize their own precalculus courses.

Ultimately San Diego wants to match the course objectives with individual students' educational goals, individualizing the content as well as the pace of the course. Content would then depend on a student's needs—someone majoring in chemistry could be given more work with logarithms, for example, while psychology majors might need only the algebra necessary for statistics.

San Diego introduced the scheme in summer, 1974, and in a report last week said the initial results were rather gratifying. Students did better on the group final than in the traditional classes, and the proportion of students who preferred the module system to the traditional one was high. Graded, and they in turn regarded the teaching experience as one of the most valuable in their college careers.

The university is now individualizing sections of other remedial courses in algebra and trigonometry.



Williamsburg, Virginia: echoes of a colonial past.

## Sir Peter soothes 'rebels' of a colonial-style campus

A call to Americans to retain their self-confidence was made last week-end by Sir Peter Ramsbotham, the British Ambassador to the United States.

Speaking at a Charter Day ceremony at the College of William and Mary, in Williamsburg, Virginia, Sir Peter told his audience: "Do not neglect the fact that America is the leader of the Western world, and that we shall be looking to some of you in this hall to lead us, in the years to come, to the assurance of a more contented life."

Britain and America, he said, represented a structure of stability on which the free world could base its hopes for the future. Their long association, shared wisdom, and deep respect for law and liberty, provided a fund of strength. As the younger, and more resourceful partner, America now carried the main responsibility on her shoulders.

Sir Peter received an honorary degree at the college, founded in 1693 and—after Harvard—the oldest institution of higher education in America.

In a witty and well-received speech, he said Britain would mark America's bicentennial year by focusing on the country's history, endurance and determination, and "the compassionate idealism which has informed this country's assumption of her responsibility as a global power". He had been asked, he said, by President Ford and others, why Britain should remember her own defeat. His reply was that the country had no hard feelings, and felt no embarrassment in joining in the celebration of one of her defeats—"being so few in our history, they are that much more memorable".

## 'Too small' university poses a problem

With the next few days the new British Columbia government, in Canada, will announce its proposals for a university whose future was the subject of considerable debate for the past seven years.

The new government of the Social Credit Party, which came to office last December, has to decide what to do with Notre Dame University, a 20-year-old institution in Nelson, a town in the sparsely populated south-east of the province. Notre Dame, with 550 students, is too small to continue on its own, too far away from the coast to join up with the universities there, and of higher education in the province's interior to close.

The previous government of the New Democratic Party wanted to make Notre Dame the first of four campuses of a completely new university, the others being on Vancouver Island, in the north-central British Columbia, and in the Okanagan area, near the United States border. The new government has not reneged this, but has asked the British Columbia University Council to advise the new Minister as to a top priority.

At the ceremonies, the new ambassador said King College was a much maligned name, and the put forward the thesis that there was no revolution in the accepted sense—only a change of economic values, there was a universal burning desire for a political system. The college, he thought, represented the only way to maintain their rights as Britons, was not an act of political rejection, Sir Peter said.

But the British connexion was particularly strong at Williamsburg, and the college had preserved with affection and enthusiasm all the colonial colleges' loyal name. And in spite of a relatively small student body, it was larger than any other American university or college.

At the ceremonies, the new ambassador also honoured one of its teachers, Jack Morpurgo, a British American History at the college, presented the college with its first official history which has been published. An honorary degree was also conferred on the former Welsh special prosecutor.

The charter day ceremony dominated this year by the British and British traditions, and a relative stillness in the growth of the four universities, are the main features of government post-school spending this year.

While expenditure on the centres is to increase by 26.3 per cent to £5.6m, spending on the universities, specialist colleges and research is to rise by 11.4 per cent, almost all of which will be accounted for by increased salaries.

The recently adopted annual budget, which outlines financial policy for the current year, envisages a 13 per cent increase in student places at the study centres, bringing the total to 4,395, and a 10 per cent rise in the number of administrative and teaching staff to 345.

This will mean that the centres, which offer basic vocational courses and mainly two-year university courses, will have an overall 1:20 ratio between lecturers and students. However, ratios at the newest centres—in the Bergen region and at Alta in the Arctic—will be considerably lower. A ninth centre is also proposed for the county of Ostfold.

Although the past five years have seen a 35 per cent increase in student numbers at the universities, expansion has now almost come to a halt and this year's student numbers are to increase by only 2 per cent to a total of 41,040. This will mean no growth at all at Oslo University, which already accounts for half of the total numbers, and a 5 per cent rise at Bergen and Trondheim.

Similarly, university staff numbers are to go up by only 1.2 per cent to a total of 7,127, with half of new appointments being made in the past or were anticipated to rise by 12.7 per cent against the average of 12.5 per cent expected nationally.

## Wave of strikes in row over reforms and cuts

NICE

A wave of strikes and demonstrations has swept French higher education in recent weeks, causing considerable disruption in a number of universities. Although incidents are frequently isolated, the disturbances illustrate a growing malaise among students and academics.

The commonest cause for the unrest has been the projected reform of the second cycle of university studies (third and fourth years) due to be implemented in October (THES, February 13). Students at the universities of Nantes, Tours and Rennes have been on strike over the past month in protest against the plans. The reform, they claim, will entail the devaluation of existing national diplomas, the intensification of selection into career training courses, and the further subjection of university teaching and research to economic and industrial interests.

At Tours, the situation has been further aggravated by staff protests against a massive job shortage. Over the past six years the number of students in arts subjects has leapt from 500 to 5,000, although there has been no corresponding increase in administrative staff.

Recently all university offices were closed to students and staff for three weeks to allow the administration to catch up on a six-month backlog of work. In addition the president of the university, M. Bernard Chevalier, has resigned office after a political wrangle within the university council. However, M. Chevalier laid the blame for his decision on the system of higher education as a whole, complaining that the rigidity of university structures and current financial impoverishment

was making academic development impossible. Another university head, M. Roland Perez, at Amiens, has also resigned his position as vice-president of the National Conference of University Presidents in protest against ministerial austerity policies. Despite formal promises from the Secretary of State for Universities that three research centres in neurophysiology, semi-conducting materials, and pluridisciplinary studies would be set up urgently at Amiens, only one centre—the cheapest—has been allocated the necessary funds. Ministerial dishonesty, M. Perez stated, is endangering the whole concept of the university as a public service.

At Toulouse-Mirail, in south-west France, a White Paper recently published by a consortium of teaching and administrative unions drew attention to what is now a chronic situation at the university. As a result of internal squabbles and ministerial intransigence over election procedures, the university has been without a president and council for more than 18 months.

It is also claimed that financial strangulation and the shortage of jobs is threatening both teaching and research activities. Originally heralded in ministerial circles as an "exemplary university", Toulouse-Mirail was built quickly and cheaply to accommodate more than 10,000 students. Now, however, maintenance costs and repair bills are absorbing an ever-increasing proportion of university funds. Heating alone is said to cost £1,500 per month, more than the cost of the university's annual spending on books and periodicals.

In conclusion the White Paper claims that the problems at Toulouse-Mirail are not merely local issues but are part of an institutional crisis stemming from a deliberate and conscious policy to run down the universities.

## Norway Study centres get boost

STOCKHOLM

The continued expansion of Norway's district college study centre system, including the opening of the eighth of the projected 17 new institutions this autumn, and a relative stillness in the growth of the four universities, are the main features of government post-school spending this year.

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Another university head, M. Roland Perez, at Amiens, has also resigned his position as vice-president of the National Conference of University Presidents in protest against ministerial austerity policies. Despite formal promises from the Secretary of State for Universities that three research centres in neurophysiology, semi-conducting materials, and pluridisciplinary studies would be set up urgently at Amiens, only one centre—the cheapest—has been allocated the necessary funds. Ministerial dishonesty, M. Perez stated, is endangering the whole concept of the university as a public service.

At Toulouse-Mirail, in south-west France, a White Paper recently published by a consortium of teaching and administrative unions drew attention to what is now a chronic situation at the university. As a result of internal squabbles and ministerial intransigence over election procedures, the university has been without a president and council for more than 18 months.

It is also claimed that financial strangulation and the shortage of jobs is threatening both teaching and research activities.

Originally heralded in ministerial circles as an "exemplary university", Toulouse-Mirail was built quickly and cheaply to accommodate more than 10,000 students. Now, however, maintenance costs and repair bills are absorbing an ever-increasing proportion of university funds. Heating alone is said to cost £1,500 per month, more than the cost of the university's annual spending on books and periodicals.

In conclusion the White Paper claims that the problems at Toulouse-Mirail are not merely local issues but are part of an institutional crisis stemming from a deliberate and conscious policy to run down the universities.

## Sri Lanka Teacher unions to avoid politics

COLOMBO

Teachers' unions on the six campuses of the University of Sri Lanka have formed into a federation called the Sri Lanka University Teachers' Union Federation.

The federation has said that, while working for the improvement of the professional status of university teachers, it will extend its fullest cooperation to the university authorities in steering clear of politics, and its unstated support to the attempts being made to make the university a truly national institution rendering maximum service to the nation.

## West Germans look ahead to shrinking staff requirements

BONN

The Wissenschaftsrat, West Germany's semi-independent advisory Council for Humanities and Sciences, where Government representatives collaborate with independent members from the academic community and from public life, has recently carried out a survey of staff in institutions of higher education. The survey forms part of its recommendations to the Federal States Planning Committee for University Buildings, in preparation for the building programme for the years 1976-79.

The council reviews the expansion of all categories of posts between 1960 and 1972, during a phase of rapid expansion which went hand-in-hand with more frequent promotion. Like the recent AIT survey, the council's deliberations demonstrate forcefully that the prospect of advancement, especially to academic posts with tenure, will be severely reduced in future, especially up to 1985.

Taking all categories of academic staff together, the number of posts quadrupled between 1960 and 1974. Although over the same period student numbers increased by 12 per cent, in addition, university staff are anticipated to rise by 12.7 per cent against the average of 12.5 per cent expected nationally.

The Wissenschaftsrat also attempts to calculate the likely demand for university teachers up to the year 2000. Considering replacement only no more than 500, or 23 per cent, new senior staff (with, of course, variations from subject to subject) will be required annually between 1975 and 1985. The figure will grow to around 900, or 4.3 per cent, towards the end of the century. The prospects are even bleaker for junior lecturer vacancies, which are estimated to be around 12 per cent annually, between 1975 and 1985, rising to something like 200 to 400 towards the year 2000.

Even if additional posts should be created, the council's predictions, based on various models of expansion, show that the new posts available will fall far below the 2,000 professors, readers, senior lecturers, and established lecturers annually to which German universities have been accustomed in recent years.

Further expansion is certainly envisaged for the current four-year period, but all Länder governments are at present imposing drastic cuts on university posts and renewed calculations are being undertaken on existing students capacities of the German universities.

The situation is especially serious for the category of temporary assistants (postgraduate students, demonstrators, etc.) which constitute the principal reservoir for this recruitment to the two-tier universities. There are outside research establishments and industry; the creation of more temporary and visiting professorships and lecturer vacancies which would alleviate the short-term staff shortages; the employment of more tutorial assistants; and the more determined use of extra university media, especially television and radio.

In conclusion, the council warns against capacity calculations, with rigid inflexible and inflexibility from within the universities themselves. Such assets will be needed more and more.

Republic of Ireland

## Irish plan for 'free university'

from Peppy Barlow

Proposals to establish a Free International University for Creativity and Interdisciplinary Research in Ireland, funded partly by the EEC, are being publicly aired at a press conference in Dublin this week.

The proposals are based on a new version of a study on the feasibility of the university, first commissioned by the EEC. The initial team includes Dr Joseph Beuys, founder of the Institute for Social Research and Development in Aachen (who was dismissed from the Düsseldorf Academy in 1972 for defying the ruling restricting entry to higher education), Heinrich Bill, the Irish novelist Francis Stuart, Dr Tapio Varis of the University of Tampere in Finland, and Caroline Tisdall, of The Guardian.

It is anticipated that the initial intake of students will consist mainly of those who have some knowledge of, and interest in, an inter-disciplinary approach, and a number of would-be applicants have apparently been in touch with the trustees already. There will be no age limit for students, and although the university will not provide degrees or post-graduate qualifications as such, there will be no formal examinations, and the student's attendance will be gauged only by "the length of time it takes (him) to evolve an independent model of thought, a grasp of the comparative method, and the ability to apply these to research and practice".

Teaching and learning practice will be based around seminars, workshops, research projects, community discussions, conferences and publications.

The organisers—who base much of their thinking on the manifesto issued in Düsseldorf in 1972 by, among others Beuys and Bill—argue in favour of siting such an institution in Ireland on the grounds that it is a small country where there would be the maximum interaction between the university and the community, and therefore a maximization of its effect on Europe as a whole. They point to Ireland's history of resistance to standardisation, especially in cultural terms, and suggest that this is due to its background of cultural domination.

They go on to suggest that in the context of the Free University the violence in the north should be seen as a challenge and not as a disincentive, a challenge to which the university's interdisciplinary approach would be peculiarly well suited.

The organisers estimate that the first year's budget would be about £150,000.

Centred at a radar receiving station to be built at Kilmara, Sweden, the EISCAT (European Incoherent Scatter Facility) project is to be financed by Britain, France, West Germany (25 per cent each), Sweden, Norway (10 per cent each) and Finland (5 per cent).

Other stations are to be built at Sodankylä, Finland, and at Ramsdmoen, near Tromsø University, Norway. It will be the first project of its kind so far north.

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Israel

## 'Maintain standards' plea despite crisis

from our correspondent

The universities are "sparkling jewels in the diadem of Israel", declared Mr Aharon Yadin, Minister of Education and Culture, at a recent symposium on higher education in Israel. Their authority as centres of excellence must not be undermined. Thanks to the universities Israel, a small country, is a power in international scholarship and research, he said.

He deplored the anti-intellectualism which has become fashionable, even among members of the Knesset (parliament), in these times of economic stress.

Mr Yadin was giving the inaugural address at the symposium which was organised by the Planning and Grants Committee of the Council for Higher Education. Although the symposium was planned early in the autumn, the economic crisis still cast its shadow over it.

Mr Yadin quoted fairly extensively from THEES to show that Israel's plight was not unique, although that was cold comfort. The creation of the Planning and Grants Committee in 1974, he said, was one of the best things that had happened in Israel in the last two years. Had it existed in time of plenty, the universities perhaps would not be in their present position.

Universities had to become more efficient and more co-operative, he said, mainly from the ratio of which to academic staff was 1:7, needed pruning. Salaries should be frozen except for the cost of living allowance. Tuition fees would have to be increased considerably.

Research money should be actively sought from other public and private sources, particularly from industry. Sabbatical leave taken in the country would save foreign currency and academics should use it in helping to solve some of Israel's major social problems or working in industry.

Despite financial exigencies, the universities must keep up their high standards. They must also help more young people from disadvantaged areas, mainly from Islamic countries, who have academic potential, to make university grade. They should also be more open to mature students, and should attract more foreign students, particularly Jews.

Mr Yadin said that, as a nation, there would be no technology, they said.

Technical Institute, that his institution deserved preferential budgetary treatment because it prepared the experts that Israel's economy needed, was vigorously rejected by Mr Matti Menged, a writer and a lecturer in literature at Haifa University, and by Mr Avraham Harman, president of the Hebrew University. Without the humanities and arts, there would be no technology, they said.

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## The philosopher as statesman



This is the problem facing any such research. In the sense that he acted on them, that he tried to live by them, that he believed other people should live by them, Seneca is useful, that he wished his contemporaries and posterity to judge him by them? Griffin is much too sensitive a scholar to look for such a simple answer. He shows that ultimately finds the third kind of "relevance" the greatest: wherever Seneca "is concerned with the moral and political attitudes of the individual, the social, and the political, the vocational attitude of the individual, the political participation and suicide which he deems necessary, the individual's "derive less from his own career or the personal problems of his admirers than from the problems which he shared with other members of the upper class under the Empire." Such a link between Seneca's life and his writings makes it all the more certain that he was well measured up to his own epoch.

In the earlier chapters she gives an account of Seneca's life and the history of the period of his power, working from outside sources and purely factual details in his writings. Thus the reader is offered a

First, however great Seneca's political influence may have been, it cannot generally be documented precisely. She seems to me to go too far in concluding that "his performance in regard to provincial government and slavery was disappointing." (In saying this, Griffin does not maintain that Seneca's theory was seriously inconsistent with his practice.) We need to know what would have counted as satisfactory (by Seneca's moral standards) in practical policy and how far he was in a position, had

Seneca was a learned man. His treatment of Stoicism, though largely confined to practical morality, is detailed and penetrating. Griffin handles the philosophical subject-matter clearly and competently without, perhaps, emphasizing sufficiently the value of his best work, the later *Letters to Lucilius*. She is probably right to say that Seneca's were higher in quality . . . than his life." But it was a life of unusual interest and importance and her book, though open to objection on some points, does much to show why.

A. A. Long

## A growing force in education

**John Bramble**

This well-established work, which is the only complete single-volume Plato in English, is now available in Britain and the Commonwealth for the first time. From the many translations of Plato's dialogues, the editors have selected those made by the best British and American scholars over the years, including a number by Cornford and Jowett. \$5.95

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## BOOKS

## Changing dynasties

The Long Year, AD 69  
by Kenneth Wellesley  
Eick, £6.95  
ISBN 0 236 40001 0

The Long Year is one of those very few years in the early Empire for which there is sufficient literary evidence for a detailed reconstruction to be attempted. This is due, of course, primarily to the fortunate survival of the early books of Tacitus's *Historiae*. AD 69 is also a most important year. To have no fewer than four emperors within twelve months is remarkable enough: two major battles, the sack of Cremona and the burning of the Capitol are happenings sufficient for any year; but the real importance of an AD 69 is that it marks the passing of the old order and the beginning of the new dynasty of the Flavians. More than that, it demonstrates the importance of the legionary armies and exposes the comparative weakness of the praetorian guard. The secret of Empire at last was revealed: that the emperor could be created elsewhere than at Rome. The Long Year, then, is an outstanding subject for a monograph.

There is, however, an almost insuperable drawback in his production: "It might seem an enterprise of folly and conceit to tread in the footsteps of Tacitus, whose narrative of this time often withstanding, the sharpest criticism." As the translator of the *Historiae* for the Penguin series, Wellesley has good reason to appreciate the peculiar difficulties. The Tacitean style, as he admits, is easier to parody than to imitate. Wellesley attempts neither, and wisely. Apart from the very beginning and the end, where the language might fairly be criticised as too high-flown, he sensibly writes in a manner much more suited to the twentieth century.

ture, in a readable, calm and yet exciting narrative. Of course, he derives from the situation which would do justice to any Hollywood epic, and Wellesley very largely lets the action speak for itself. He does not attempt, for instance, to deprive Otho of credit for his suicide after the battle of Bedriacum (or the first battle of Cremona, as Wellesley, rightly, prefers it to be called).

One or two small points might puzzle the general reader. Wellesley is inconsistent in his treatment of the names of military units: sometimes he employs the usual title, for example XXI Rapax on page 102, more often he translates, for example, Twenty-First (Hurrucanne) Legion on page 80. The Latin name is surely preferable. Similarly, most place-names are given in their modern form, even when these are less well known, except possibly inside Italy. A concordance of place-name equivalents is provided, but, oddly, in their Latin order. Maps are a problem: that of Northern Italy is on too small a scale, whereas the other three, which illustrate the fighting near Cremona, could well cover more territory. The illustrations are interesting, but for the most part bear little relation to the text. There is a satisfactory index, and the notes are consecutively numbered throughout the book, which is convenient for the reader. There is no bibliography, but a satisfactory one would have been too long, and an index of the *Historiae*. A more serious point is in relation to the site and nature of Stanwick. Wellesley refers to the attempt by Vespasian to dislodge Caracalla from her throne and from her capital at Stanwick near Boroughbridge. Stanwick is north-west of Scotch Corner, and usually associated with Vespasian.

G. R. Watson

## Imperial outlook

Allen Wisdom: *The Limits of Hellenization*  
by Arnaldo Momigliano  
Cambridge University Press, £4.50  
ISBN 0 521 20876 9

Arnaldo Momigliano was born in 1898 and began his distinguished career of scholarly publication in 1930 with a work on the composition of Thucydides's history, which was followed the next year by one on the Maccabees. Diverse interests and enormous erudition have continued to be a mark of his large output. He has ranged up and down the centuries of the ancient world, classical and near eastern, deploying a by now legendary mastery of bibliographical techniques and a shrewdness of judgment which together have earned him universal respect as one of the most eminent of ancient historians.

The present book, which comes as he retires, is derived from his Trevelyan lectures at Cambridge and his Flexner lectures at Bryn Mawr. It considers how in the fourth to first century BC (the Hellenistic age) Greeks explored the world of the Celts, the Jews, the Persians (Iranians) and of the Romans themselves. Hellenistic civilization was well equipped for knowing other civilizations—except for the fact that constant of languages was lacking. This was always a weakness of the Greeks; if they had known at least one other tongue it is likely that they would have avoided some of the philosophical perplexities which beset them.

The practical Romans learned Greek, and were not slow to take advantage of Greek technical co-operation to develop their knowledge of barbarian lands and eventually to conquer the Greeks themselves.

And they were able to persuade natives of Magna Graecia, Campania, Umbria and Africa to use their knowledge of Greek so as to produce a literature in Latin. How far the success of Roman imperialism is attributable to the Romans' determined effort to learn to speak and think in Greek Professor Momigliano is hesitant to conjecture, but clearly it was a very important factor.

Before the death of Alexander (323 BC) the Greeks were hardly familiar with the Roman, Celtic and Jewish civilizations, though their contact with the Persians, if not always comfortable, was of long standing. Momigliano finds, contrary to his original expectation, that Roman impact on the intellectual relations between Greeks and Jews or Celts or Iranians as soon as Rome's power began to be felt outside Italy in the second century BC was strong. Under the influence of their Roman masters the Greeks' interest in other peoples grew.

In the second century BC Polybius, the Greek historian of Rome, was asked to write as he did by the discovery there of an aristocracy already deeply imbued with Greek ideas and ideals with whom he thus shared a whole set of assumptions about life. He readily identified himself with Roman success, overlooking awkward matters (for example, internal conflicts within the Roman upper class, and tensions between Romans and non-Romans in Italy), and he created an atmosphere in which Roman conquests became both easy to understand and difficult to question.

Horace's adage, "Greece, the captive, made her savage victor captive" (*Epistles* 2.158) needs some reconsideration in the light of this interesting and stimulating book.

H. MacL. Currie

## Athletes

The Olympic Games:  
The First Thousand Years  
by M. I. Finley and H. W. Pleket  
Chatto & Windus, £5.00  
ISBN 0 7011 2087 8

With the start of the Olympic Games of 1976 we are inevitably reminded that this bizarre occasion with its mixture of competitiveness, asceticism, and idealism, claims roots and origins in Ancient Greece; and it is appropriate that the remainder should be documented by writers with the unimpeachable scholarly credentials of Professor Finley and Dr Pleket.

The authors approach their subject informatively and without sentimentality, and should attract readers who know much or little about the ancient world, whether they be athletic enthusiasts or whether they loathe organized games and find sport a bore. They give a clear account of the extraordinary value of swerving horses and carts which constituted a chariot-race; and they make us realize that the Olympics, however splendid, were uncomfortable for participants and spectators alike. The book is well illustrated too—the terrifying boxer's gloves, the (admittedly irregular) attempts of parricidal sons to gouge out their opponents' eyes, the menacing figure of the trainer, whip in hand, and, with unexpected directness, the modern Olympic Games, with the participants (or some of them)—all are portrayed in well-chosen photographs of vase paintings.

The book's great merit is that it not only describes the games well but sets them in their social, political and religious context. We learn how the relation of the games to military needs—illustrated by the number of Spartan victories in the early games—became less and less close, as the skills of the athletes were pursued for their own sake and as the political value of competing was seen to be in display of wealth. Also, although the aristocratic values of ancient society, the athlete was one of a few whose skills enabled him to cross the formidable class-barriers of the ancient world. The authors' methodology, that has arisen since the modern world tried to revive the traditions of the ancient Olympics, is not kept permanent: kindled: "the torch-race of antiquity" were purely local relay races.

I have only one complaint: there are no references, and no bibliography. Furthermore—and this is inexcusable—authors who could be named are not. It is a quotation from Euripides that is used to introduce a good, very contemporary illustration, and not to be told who he is. This book deserves the attention of scholar and layman alike; it is a time when there is growing interest in the ancient world it is interesting for the reader to be denied information which could encourage him to pursue his interest.

J. L. Creed

## BOOKS

## Heroism

The Emperor Julian  
by Robert Browning  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £6.95  
ISBN 0 297 7029 2

Robert Browning is one of our most justly honoured ancient historians, a scholar who cares about teaching, a classicist who does not think that the world came to an end in AD 180 or any such date, but is aware of the continuity of history. Five years ago he wrote an excellent book, *Justinian and Theodora*. Now he has moved back, a century and a half to treat *The Emperor Julian*.

He has a fascinating and fruitful subject. Gibbon wrote of Julian's "intrepid courage, lively wit, and intense application", and yet saw him as one in whom Alexander's spirit was transformed into Diogenes; the philosopher was degraded into a priest. He was the centre of a sensitive and imaginative novel by Gore Vidal. Julian was born in 332, his mother died when he was 10, his father died when he was 12. He was brought up by his uncle, Constantine, who was his father's brother, but he grew up a recluse, in protective custody, surrounded by spies. He was aged 19 when his brother Gallus was made Caesar and he himself started the intensive study of philosophy, aged 22 when Gallus was executed.

The following year he became Caesar himself. At age 25 he was commanding troops with astonishing success of touch, and was not aged 30 when he was but five when Constantine died and he himself started the intensive study of philosophy, aged 22 when Gallus was executed.

He was without his breastplate—surely a sign of some sort of death-wish when he received his fatal wound. He was Alexander, but not an Alexander; his philosophy was ineffectual; his legislation was speedily reversed.

Browning tells his story well. Sometimes speculation is mingled unobtrusively with certainties, and conclusions drawn which others would not accept. Did the Church really own ecclesiastical buildings and estates of all kinds before Constantine? Did Constantine declare Sunday a public holiday because it was a Christian day, or the dies venerabilis Solis? Was the *Donatist* really so novel in the middle of the fourth century? Is it true that the cult of Mithras was widely diffused among the soldiers? The chapters are concise, and mostly small. In Julian's "epitaph" does not the phrase mean "beyond the Tigris"? Besides these there is a strange neglect of the evidence of Basil. He is not even mentioned in the list of sources. Nor is Theodorus, nor most oddly is A. D. Nock's edition of "Salustius". And what of numismatic evidence—the Apis coin SECVRITAS REPUBLICAE? For the most part, however, Browning's judgment is splendid.

Note for example how he draws out the allusions to the Unconquered Sun in Basil's panegyric on Constantine. Constantine was a god of power, syncretistic of the Sun and the Christ. Or note his excellent account of Julian's treatise on the Mother of the Gods. Indeed when Browning reaches Julian's reign he seems to warm to his work and his chapter, "Julian and the Christians" could hardly be bettered. He emphasizes the recent growth of Christianity among the upper classes; he is outstandingly sensitive to Julian's psychological and his brilliant economic and balanced account of the importance of education; he has a judicious analysis of the limitations of Julian's anti-Christian polemic.

"He was a man," said Ammianus of Julian, "worthy to be accounted among the heroic spirits and marked alike by the distinction of his achievements and his natural dignity." Waris and all, Browning has conveyed the heroism of this great human person, *perfidus ille deo, quoniam non perfidus orbi*.

John Ferguson

## Inside a civilization

The Roman Experience  
by L. P. Wilkinson  
Eick, £6.00 and £3.25  
ISBN 0 236 40008 6 and 40009 6

This highly competent book, carrying the authority of a distinguished critic and elegant translator of the Roman Augustan poets, is directed towards that growing public which, deprived by fate or fashion of the opportunity to read Greek and Latin, is happy to draw sustenance of a sort from translation. Used in conjunction with the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* and Lewis and Reinhold's sourcebook *Roman Civilization* it will do much to bring the Romans nearer to us. A social history seeking to "view the Romans' experience more from within than has been customary", it deals with the central period from 185 BC to AD 180.

Any attempt to define the character of a civilization is hazardous. The particulars upon which generalizations are built tend to be too many or too few. If the voice of the silent majority of modern Britons is scarcely audible to us, contemporaries, that of Rome is not likely to be more perceptible after two thousand years. Horace and Virgil and Ovid and the rest we can talk with as friends, but how typical are such of their countrymen? Perhaps Wilkinson might have been more explicit in warning us of the source situation: the enormous and often fortuitous losses, the frequently unsatisfactory or late authorities, and the Roman passion for satire and self-criticism. But he very nearly brings off the impossible, regaling us, almost to satiety, with a multitude of striking anecdotes used to support this or that view.

The compression enforced by a book

treating a large theme causes some lack of sustained argument. The longest such is a six-page study of the elder Scipio, whose career lies largely outside the period) and, in tempering the wind to the shorn lamb, the author too rigorously excludes references to the primary sources (only two or three have survived the sponges).

It is ungenerous to complain of omissions where so much is felicitously and entertainingly offered. I would willingly jettison the pages on the antique Apuleius Claudius, Aemilianus and Tiberius Gracchus. I should like to hear more of the Romans' sheer efficiency (the author admits their talent for "compromise"), but more than that was needed to unify Italy and the world, and to adapt and expand the instruments of civilization for a millennium; of the attitude to nature; of local patriotism; of literacy and literary patronage; of the passion to maintain calendars and records; and of conditions of life outside the capital, and outside Italy. For these things evidence is not lacking.

The book is well produced, but the index is decidedly incomplete. In such a vast accumulation of detail, a few slips are inevitable. Cape Colonna is not in the toe of Italy, nor Horace's birthplace in his heel; Egypt was not the chief source of Rome's grain imports; and Cologne is not a happy example of a town developing from a legendary fortress. But these are details. What matters is the essential readability and plausibility of an account which, especially in its latter half, in large measure fulfils its aim.

Kenneth Wellesley

## Interpreting Rome

The Lycurgus Cup, a cameo glass vessel of the fourth century. This and the illustration on the facing page both appear in *The Fall of the Roman Empire: A Reappraisal* by Michael Grant; Nelson, £6.95.

A History of Rome down to the Reign of Constantine  
by M. Cary and H. H. Scullard  
Macmillan, £7.95  
ISBN 333 17440 2

Although Rostovtzeff's epoch-making *Social and Economic History of the Roman Empire* had appeared in 1926, the Cambridge *Ancient History* (to which he was a contributor) was still incomplete when Cary's *History of Rome* first came out in 1935. The past forty years have seen an increase in information and advances in interpretation over the whole span of Roman history. Gjerstad's excavations have revived interest in the origins of Rome, the regal period and the early Republic, and a lively debate is still in progress. Knowledge of the Etruscans and their impact on Rome has increased with the discovery of a major step forward in the study of Phoenician and Greek involvement in Italy.

Now seems to be on a much firmer footing. For the Republic, there is now much more information for the serious student: the work of Galzer and Münzer has been thoroughly assimilated. Of the major contributions one might single out those of E. Badian and the two great monographs by Toynbee and P. A. Brunt, while Syme's *Roman Revolution* has transformed our understanding of the age of Caesar and Augustus. In the imperial period there is also a great deal of new material, and the series on the provinces (which has so far covered Britain, Dalmatia and three of the Danubian provinces) the flood of work on the *Historia Augusta*, and A. H. M. Jones's monumental *Later Roman Empire*. Revision was clearly required, and Professor Scullard is eminently well qualified to undertake it, both as a former pupil of Cary and as an author in his own right.

The book has a completely new format, with a larger page and double columns. Even so, it is still nearly 700 pages long (against the 560 of the original edition), for there is a good deal of new material, including twice as many photographs and many more maps and plans. The illustrations are well chosen and of the whole well reproduced; and some are very up to date, such as the Pyri inscriptions, the *Tabula Peutingeriana*, and the reconstruction of the

Fishbourne palace. A chronological table and two republican stemmata to supplement the genealogy of the Julio-Claudian dynasty have been added, and also—doubtless sympathetic of the declining state of classical studies—a glossary of Latin terms, from *acclamation* to *virtutum*. But the most substantial addition is to the notes, now gathered together at the end of the book instead of at the end of each chapter, and occupying over 80 pages in small print.

Almost nothing has escaped Scullard's attention, including some extremely recent items, and he is liberal with references to articles as well as to books, some in languages other than English in each case. There is, however, no reference to the work of H. G. Pflaum and the early Republic, and a lively debate is still in progress. Knowledge of the Etruscans and their impact on Rome has increased with the discovery of a major step forward in the study of Phoenician and Greek involvement in Italy.

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Misprints are commendably infrequent in so long and detailed a book; there are a fair number of minor errors in initials or slight deformations of authors' names in the notes (only Murillo for Murillo, Schliemann for Schliemann, Brege for Brege, could hardly be more egregiously misread). Above all, his extensive annotation, it will be an ideal work of reference for students, and I hope that the publishers will make a cheap edition available in paperback.

A. R. Birley



Fourth century ivory diptych of Adam in the Garden of Eden.

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JOHN MURRAY

## Intellectual revolution

Plato's Universe  
by Gregory Vlastos  
Clarendon Press: Oxford University Press, £3.75  
ISBN 0 19 824538 6

In *Plato's Universe* Professor Vlastos asks whether Plato's approach to science was wholly retrograde, especially when considered in historical context. In the first chapter he argues that the early philosopher-scientists (physiologists) introduced an intellectual revolution by casting to think of the universe as partially governed by arbitrary divine forces, and considering it instead as an ordered system, obeying laws of its own. The ordered beauty (*kosmos*) of the world is not imposed on it, nor can it be violated by any gods, but is only the manifestation of its laws, so that the word *kosmos* is applied indifferently to the natural world itself and the order in it. While their views varied in content and degree of elaboration the clear picture is of opposition to divine causation in favour of materialistic accounts of the origin and operation of the universe.

In chapter two he considers how Plato, by contrast, prepared to present all physiologists for their ultimate (Laws 885-892), and insisting on the importance of recognizing God's primacy in the universe. Plato derives certain "facts" from the belief in a benevolent deity in love with beauty. This Vlastos considers, and argues that he argues that these metaphysical views eventually make contact with the data of astronomy, because they entail that stellar motions are circular. This conflicts with known observations of the sun and planets, so far as the sun goes; Plato was limited into a way of preserving the thesis about circular motion while explaining the appearances, which was scientifically extremely fruitful and profitable for anything that his opponents could produce.

In the final chapter Vlastos offers an exposition of Plato's

ism, arguing that it does not conflict with the "fact" that it admits that it is not particularly fruitful, but argues that it is no worse than his last rival, the Democritean view, which aesthetically preferable. Further, the view, while preserving the deity, rationalizes the universe, and thus when materialistic atomism had little hope of making headway, the *Timaeus* held out the possibility of combining scientific rationality with religious belief, so keeping the Greek intellectual torch alive ready for the discoveries of the seventeenth century.

To so short a book, where so much is speculative, Vlastos is bound to deal rather quickly with some opponents, although a series of long notes in the appendix helps. He gives a clear presentation, with much of detailed value. He seems to me a little harsh on the reputation, in context, of Plato's general teleology, perhaps because he sees the connexion of rationality with goodness as explicable only as a piece of metaphysical perversion. He is also rather brisk on Plato's relations with the physiologists. Those described in Laws 885-892 seem to hold: that important objects result from nature and chance, that natural objects are material and unthinking, that soul is preterite on material objects, and the soul's objects are products of human ingenuity. It is unlikely that the physiologists generally are envisaged, as the description is very few, and according to *Timaeus* 28c, 29d, Plato thought most earlier thinkers considered mind to rule the universe. *Phaedrus* 96a does not contradict this: it is one thing to think that mind rules the universe, but not use the term in one's explanation, another to consider the universe as basically a mindless amalgam, partly the product of chance. It needs arguing that the physiologists fit the second description, and that Plato thought they did. Without this Plato's picture will look like giving too clear and clear a contrast. Perhaps we can look forward to more from the same pen.

Justin Gosling

## The Ancient World: Source Books

General Editor:  
PETER WALCOT

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Translated and edited by  
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## BOOKS

## Boxes, tubes and arrows

Human Memory  
by Robert L. Klatzky  
W. H. Freeman, £7.20 and £3.90  
ISBN 0 7167 0729 2 and 0728 4

As a text written for undergraduate and graduate courses in memory, learning and cognition, *Human Memory* leaves much to be desired. If the most important criterion for a student text is simplicity without loss of rigour of argument, then the book fails. At different points the descriptions are oversimplified or obscure. In the representation of Broadbent's model of attention, for example, we are shown a cut-away view of a human head with a few pieces of tubing running between the ears and the mouth. The representation of cognitive systems by three-dimensional boxes may be a useful teaching aid when used occasionally, but such extensive use as in the early part of this book must be accepted warily. These amusing simplifications of models and processes, in terms of boxes, tubes and arrows, might easily lead students to naive interpretations of the originals.

The approach is from the contemporary view of man as a processor of information. It is a powerful and provocative view, but this instance of its application is disappointing. Klatzky places a considerable emphasis upon structuralism in the study of human memory, and at times there are lapses into the out-dated jargon of verbal learning theory. The tendency to

search for structure in the organization of our memory systems is perhaps representative of the state of thinking about the subject, but one might speculate that this is also why we are not progressing as we might hope.

The emphases of content are also topical. There are thorough discussions of encoding processes, the codes we use to represent our knowledge, and of the organization of semantic memory. The relationships between memory and other components of the cognitive system—pattern recognition, and problem solving, for instance—are not described in any great detail, but Klatzky does indicate the context of where "memory" fits in this system. Whereas the organization of the text is not totally inconspicuous (we start with the entry of information into the system and conclude with some of the effects of information upon behaviour), it is disjointed.

The choice of material used by Klatzky is representative of what is happening in memory research, except for relatively little coverage of the use of memory in language, of the processes of search through semantic memory, and there is no mention whatsoever of the directed forgetting phenomenon. There are some valuable points here which Klatzky neglects; surprisingly so in view of her concern with mnemonic organization.

Geoffrey Underwood

## Defending the university

Universities in the Western World  
edited by Paul Seabury  
Collier Macmillan, £7.25  
ISBN 0 228 340 X

Making every possible recalcitrant and counter-suggestible allowance against the sensationalism of the mass media, it remains sensible to think of the university as an institution in crisis. The problem is less to acknowledge the symptoms of infirmity than to discover cause and prescribe cure. Diagnoses of the campus disruptions of the late 1960s are legion and, as M. Bourricaud observes, for the most part undistinguished. This particular volume, however, is among the minority of useful publications and is illuminating particularly in that the new economic stringencies of the 1970s which have added further dimensions to the conflict reflected by the "student trouble" of the late 1960s, were already in the minds of the contributors, most of whom wrote their essays for a conference of the International Council on the Future of the University in 1973. Professor Seabury has edited this collection of papers and Charles Frankel has added a thoughtful epilogue which summarizes, albeit too briefly, the main doubts and dilemmas now faced by those who would ensure a future for academic science and scholarship as we have known it traditionally in the western world.

In one sense all contributors agree: they want universities to flourish as protected centres of free learning and teaching. But this ultimate consensus of aim is obscured

by divisions as to more proximate policies which derive in turn from opposed analyses as to the causes of present discontents. Some deduce disarray in the university from class and race conflict in national and international society. Others seek to explain the crisis in terms of the structure of the university itself, pointing to vested resistances to decline of privilege or over-enthusiastic acceptance of social responsibility, whether in the form of demand for student places or for useful knowledge. These externalist and internalist theories are advanced politically from both the left and right. I cannot follow M. Bourricaud in preferring either approach: they surely meet on their respective deductive and inductive merits, but therefore become indistinguishable. What remains is the fact of what Professor Shils calls the "decomposition of the academic ethos" and hence the threat to its embodiment in action which is the university.

Of course the academic ethos—a steadfast devotion to science and letters by teachers and their students—waxes or wanes with social conditions. It has been driven to the margins of society often enough in the past by intolerant churches, secular nationalists and, in our time, by totalitarian regimes. It may be more subtly enfeebled by affluence leading to indolence or, still more subtly and contrarily, by resources inadequate to ambitious commitments.

The opinions offered in this book range from deep gloom to the most cautious optimism. The news presented by Thomas Nipperdey is of sombre fear that academic standards have been undermined by political radicalism.

From the United States S. J. Lipset pursues the absorbing theme that unionisation of university teachers may shift power back towards senior members but, at the same time constitute an attack on traditional standards. Lipset traces the multiple representations of the trend "from academic austerity" over the past 10 years and ends in disquiet: "The present, however, are not good. Donald MacRae is relatively cheerful about British adaptation to the trends of the recent past but is less confident about 'our ability to weather the gales of the economic climate and the well-meant storm of the state in its various forms'."

Whatever the present causal conditions I am inclined to agree in effect does Frankel, with E. Dahrendorf who tells us that there is "no way back to the old university which existed before mass education, participatory demands of the emergence of an educational class." The past can teach us as much as the future. It is not more than should any current and fashionable political creed. Frankel puts it well when he says "there is a need for thought, specific and substantive, about the shape that our education should take in a world that is going to be radically different from that in which universities in the old model emerged. But there is a need, even more, to demonstrate that, whatever the forces of 'History' or 'functionalism', there are men and women in universities who do not make up their minds about what is true by asking which faction will be served."

A. H. Halsey

## The English teacher's complaint

The Preachers of Culture  
by Margaret Smith  
Allen Lane, £3.95 and £2.40  
ISBN 0 04 370067 5 and 370068 3

The Preachers of Culture offers a sweeping survey of the aims proclaimed by educational pioneers and committees over the past 150 years and of the way they have affected the teaching of English in schools. In the process complex ideas are reduced to slogans, but the book is not intended as a history of educational ideas. Its concern with ideas is only with their consequences for the curriculum.

Margaret Mathison contends that since the mid-nineteenth century in addition to the rudimentary arts of literacy, the English teacher has been made responsible for transmitting an increasing list of controversial values. Arranged in chronological order these are: diffusion and revival of culture; stimulation of creativity; training of discrimination; and the nourishment of social (rather than clerical) linguistic competence. In its strongest form this final aim is the abolition of teaching of rudimentary literacy to working-class children, with which the whole process began.

As each new aim was accepted, according to the author, it did not replace its predecessor but was set down beside it in the classroom, regardless of the fact that there are contradictions among the four functions.

For example, the first three aim to "alienate" the pupil from industrial civilization, while the fourth seeks to fit him for it. Similarly, while the first and the third aim urge the teacher to act as an outraged missionary, the second and fourth require him to perform as an unshockable confidant. And so, she says, English teachers have laboured under demands which have never become absolute. The result is that they suffer from role conflict, doubt, distress and disappointment, to say nothing of public disapproval. Nobody acquainted with the field of English teaching would

deny that there is some confusion among teachers, but the one point to be said with justice of the author too easily assumes that English is a special case and she pays too much attention to educational theory. Admittedly, repeating papers are given to such as these records, but in this they only resemble most other people engaged in education. This is no better than what they really do, the secret life of Walter Pater was a description of his public one.

The danger of this theoretical concentration is that the way to improve aims which are the subject of the book is to be a "diffuse and lofty" ideal, narrow and lower than what it is, stultify rather than stimulate development. There is no reason why there should be only one way to improve our views on the importance of educational theory, however, it is still possible to be grateful for the motley record of ideas.

Sydney Dob

## How workers see society

Working-class Images of Society  
edited by Martin Bulmer  
Routledge & Kegan Paul, £4.90  
ISBN 0 7100 8398 4

Sociologists in Britain are sometimes accused of being preoccupied with social class and socialization, yet such a preoccupation is probably inevitable when many in the academy are preoccupied in society. However, it is an interesting paradox, for it tends to be the sociologists who perceive the injustices rather than those who they believe are suffering from them. These sociologists need to understand why working-class groups in Britain have failed to make a better society, to develop a radical class consciousness and this is where the study of working-class images of society becomes important. This book provides some of the answers. There are 16 contributions to this

volume, each of which discusses working-class images of society. The emphasis is upon "traditional" workers as exemplified by those employed in such industries as coalmining, shipbuilding, engineering and agriculture. The starting point for the discussion is David Lockwood's seminal paper "Sources of Variation in Working-Class Images of Society" first published in the *Sociological Review* in 1966, in which he argues that contemporary inequality are pre-dominantly imposed by immediate work and community relations. Thus, by implication, there are only limited possibilities for the emergence of a broadly-based class consciousness.

Although a number of the contributors do question the over-riding importance which Lockwood attributes to local factors in shaping class images, only one or two of them systematically consider the significance of factors out-

side immediate work and community relations for the determination of workers' attitudes. Indeed, the almost exclusive emphasis upon "local" factors is the major flaw in this volume. It is, in fact, difficult to accept the notion of the mass media, powerful in the eyes of the political system, having no consequences, to say nothing of the effects of changing employment opportunities, payment systems and specific localities. Indeed, as one or two of the contributors suggest, large-scale changes are breaking down the traditional parochialism and restricted scope of the working class, and are thereby threatening the basis of social and economic stability in British society.

Richard Stone

## Defining terms

Poetics, Rhetoric and Logic:  
Studies in the Basic Disciplines of  
Criticism  
by Wilbur Samuel Howell  
Cornell University Press, £9.10  
ISBN 0 8014 0945 4

Professor Howell is best known as the author of *Logic and Rhetoric in England 1500-1700* and *Eighteenth-Century British Logic and Rhetoric*. As a literary scholar he is particularly interested in the interrelations of poetics, rhetoric and logic. Strictly speaking, he should be equally interested in grammar as a crucial part of the trivium, but he excuses himself for this omission on grounds which seem to me unconvincing. His new book is a collection of occasional essays, unified by a pervasive concern to clarify the distinctions between poetics, rhetoric and logic where such distinctions exist, and to define the common ground between them where that ground has been ignored. The dominant note of the book is impatience. Howell is irritated with so many modern scholars that I am surprised he does not leave them alone. Nearly every essay includes a few scolding pages in which some scholar is rebuked for confounding a distinction or failing to make one. In most cases the sins are venial and arise from differences of emphasis rather than from darkness or folly.

Howell defines poetics as "the theory of symbols of all degrees and kinds", rhetoric as "the theory of statement in its entire range from oratory and history to biography and scientific exposition", and logic as "the theory of that branch of intellectual writing or speaking which is addressed to the world of learning as scholars, philosophers and scientists, and which is to be used and to advance learning by disputation, controversy, argument and exposition". These discriminations are then enforced in the several essays. In the first Howell considers Aristotle and Horace on rhetoric and poetics. In the second he examines briefly what he expounded fully in *Logic and Rhetoric in England 1500-1700*: the interrelations between poetics, rhetoric and logic in such critics as Bacon, Wilson, Sidney, Harrington, Johnson and Pechham. The third essay is a study of Fenelon's analysis of oratory and poetry in the *Dialogues* and the *Letter to the Academy*. One of the best essays considers the influence of William Donnan's *Elements of Logic* on Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence. There is also a clear and damaging account of De Quincey's distinction between the literature of knowledge and the literature of power.

The book ends with a somewhat grudging account of Kenneth Burke's "Lexicon Rhetorice", which mainly from Burke's remark that poetry and rhetoric are much the same thing in one respect, namely, their interest in making a desired impression upon the "hearer or reader." Howell makes very heavy weather of this assertion, and argues the many occasions on which Burke maintains in practice a real distinction between the two terms. Besides, two things may be said in one respect and different in every other. A sentence may be a statement, but it may also be described as an action or performance. A critic who pursues the terminology of statement will say when his colleague discusses "terms of action." Howell never shows these concessions, but he has not shown what dire consequences Burke would fall upon if we were to say that his valuable things are not about poetics, the distinction between mimetic and non-mimetic literature, fiction, feigning and other topics, but I wish he were liberal rather than rigid in his sense of the Aristotelian life. It is a big country, after all.

Denis Donoghue

Selected Poems 1908-1959  
by Ezra Pound  
Faber, £3.50 and £1.30  
ISBN 0 571 10906 3 and 10907 1  
Pavannes and Divagations  
by Ezra Pound  
New Directions, \$3.45  
ISBN 0 8112 0575 4  
Pound  
by Donald Davie  
Fontana, 60p  
ISBN 0 00 633433 4

Until about a decade ago, Ezra Pound was the most neglected of all major American writers. Most academics interested in modernism virtually ignored him. On both sides of the Atlantic, students of twentieth-century poetry were allowed, even encouraged, to disregard the author of the *Cantos*; a similar inattention to the author of *The Waste Land* would have been unthinkable. Despite Pound's burning wish to instruct and inspire other poets, on the whole his influence on their works proved slight. And the general public, charmed by Frost (or their image of him) and awed by Eliot, felt little interest in Pound.

Such reactions are not surprising, of course. Pound's obscurity is due to a disarray even the most serious scholar let alone the undergraduate or general reader: Eliot tends to confine his quotations and allusions to the major texts of English and continental literature, but Pound's references regularly encompass troubadour poetry, Chinese literature and history, and events in his own life. Moreover, his anti-Semitism and his naive political and economic theories, as well as his open support of Fascism during the war, hardly make him an appealing figure. The anger that so many intellectuals felt when he was awarded the Bollingen Prize indicated that

he was not self-deceived. Danto is even prepared to go as far as to suggest that there may not be any real instances of bad faith at all. This interesting philosophical conclusion needs more discussion than can be given in a short book. However, the claim that bad faith and anguish are external to the main structures of thought, which Sartre is dealing with in *Being and Nothingness* does seem to constitute a major criticism of that work.

In the same way Danto's claim that nothingness really involves only the relation of denotation or deixis, pointing, certainly seems to reduce what Sartre is normally thought to have meant. If "the whole high-flown apparatus of Nothingness in Sartre's thought is merely a device for speaking of the distance between sign and object" then most readers of *Being and Nothingness* have been deceived. For Sartre means it when he says that man is nothing, an anguished being, a "useless passion". He frequently has arguments for this position which deserve close scrutiny, and in this he is like many an analytical philosopher. But his account of the "human condition", his picture of man which emerges in the literary works, is the result of his philosophical arguments. Nothingness is more like original sin than a point of logic. Just as there have been those who tried to minimize the latter concept, to make it equivalent to a tendency to sin rather than to a necessary sinfulness, as Danto writers down what Sartre says. After his analysis of relations with others, that most depressing section of the book, Danto suggests that Sartre did not want to deny the plain facts of cooperative enterprises. It seems clear to me that this is just what he does want to do, at least for those, and that means most of us, who have not reached the level of authenticity, if indeed such a thing be attainable, should not be for Sartre. Sartre never needs to describe what it would be like.

## The singer and his songs

whether or not they would in theory support such a view of literature, in practice they believed that the dancer and the dancer are indivisible. In the past 10 years or so, however, interest in Pound has risen dramatically. Yet there are many valuable articles and books on him have been written and many editions of his works have been published, certain significant gaps in our knowledge of and interest in Pound remain. One of the most important of these is a considerable increase in the number of Pound's most puzzling passages.

Because of the increasing attention that Pound is receiving, the new Faber edition of his poetry is very welcome and very useful. For years Faber has been reissuing an older volume of Pound's selected poetry; this expanded and revised version is a considerable improvement. Unlike the earlier volume, which consisted only of some of the short poems and *Hugh Selwyn Mauberley*, this book includes as well *Homage to Sextus Propertius* and generous selections from the *Cantos*. The editorial decision to omit a number of the early poems that appear in the original edition was judicious; almost all of the best and most characteristic early poems are still included. The conclusion of Eliot's essay on Pound, used as an introduction to the earlier edition, is also sensible: this work hardly represents Eliot's criticism at its best. My one reservation about this selection is that, given the beauty and literary significance of the "Pisan Cantos", it would have been useful to reprint one of them in its entirety.

Though this edition is certainly valuable in its own right, it is not exactly reminds us of the urgent need for an annotated edition of Pound.

We may sometimes forget that some of the best short poems, such as "Pere Vidal Old" and "The Return", are readily accessible without any critical apparatus. On the other hand, though, only with the aid of extensive notes are we able to read and to teach a number of his most impressive works.

*Pavannes and Divagations* is a collection of some of Pound's prose essays, and a few poetic *jeux d'esprit*; many of these selections have previously been very hard to find. Though on the whole they do not rank among Pound's most central works, they are illuminating. For example, the autobiographical sketch is interesting, especially because of the complex attitudes towards the United States that it reflects. As Donald Davie has demonstrated in his studies of Pound, the "imaginary letters" are helpful in interpreting *Hugh Selwyn Mauberley*. One of the most important items in the book is a little essay that critics tend to neglect, "Religio": using the form of a mock catechism, Pound spells out attitudes to "the gods" that clarify many of his short poems, as well as several significant passages in the *Cantos*.

Like a number of the other authors in the *Pontana Modern Masters* series, Donald Davie has chosen to write a serious and controversial analysis of the figure whom he is examining, not a bland introduction. Thus, for example, he presents interesting and original arguments about the influence of Eliot on Pound, and the style that the *gushiness* of the style represents a deliberate attempt to imitate and comment on "translators". The lack of an index is regrettable. On the whole, though, this is a very interesting and engagingly written study, an example of the fact that Pound is at last beginning to receive the sort of serious critical attention that he deserves and roveys.

Heather Dubrow Ousby

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# BOOKS

## Military honour

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**R. J. Reed**

It went against this background that I read Hameka's book on the *Quantum Theory of the Chemical Bond*, anticipating that in it there would surely show us his prejudices and preconceptions in the subject developing. The answer which emerged is that the author sees the subject developing back-wards, from the classical physics in the book towards electronic spectroscopy the simplifications afforded by symmetry are given as a means and in many parts of the book he has oriented the formalism supreme, unquestioned (but always, let it be said, in applications in which its use is justified).

**Margaret Baron**

ham; Professor John Ferguson is director of studies in arts at the Open University; Professor A. H. Halsey is director of the department of social and administrative studies at Oxford. His books include *Social Class* and *Educational Opportunity and The British Academic*;

Anthony Manser is professor of philosophy at Southampton University;

Paul Hyman is a fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford.

Why, in fact, does a scientist or engineer require mathematics? The most likely answer is that no competent scientist or engineer can keep up with the literature in his subject without a good understanding of some fairly sophisticated mathematics. Since the literature in the field of predicting which aspects of mathematics today's students will need in their professional work, 10 years hence, the syllabus makers seem to have decided that, to prepare for all potential uses, students must be exposed to the widest spectrum of mathematical techniques as can possibly be crammed into the time available.

The resultant mathematics courses are so crowded with new subject-matter that proper structure and learning becomes very difficult. New concepts cannot be properly explored and their relation to previously established concepts may get lost. In turn, this strips mathematics of much of its inherent interest; a disaster for those whose main field of study lies elsewhere.

The number of institutions

FRANÇOIS EYRE METHUEN

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1037.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Academic publishing

from Mr John Childs

Sir,—In my view, the future of academic publishing lies in microfiche and no longer in the hard and paperback as the medium holds numerous advantages over traditional forms. It is far cheaper than paperback and more durable than paperback and provides the availability of almost immediate reprinting. Production costs are low which means that works of extreme rarity and minority interest can be produced without the publisher incurring a financial risk.

For a historian, such as myself, microfiche can provide source material to use in one's own study without having to travel many miles to check a small point. Consider also the huge number of theses moulder on library shelves; with microfiche these could be published and their information released.

Microfiche offers low cost, an inexhaustible range of potential titles, convenience, and the spread of historical knowledge. In 10 years time an historian without a complete range of basic source materials on microfiche will, hopefully, be a rarity.

Yours faithfully,

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## Sociology split

from Professor Donald MacRae

Sir,—The dispute between the British Sociological Association and the new Social Administration Association may well give malign pleasure to the academic community as a whole (*THES*, February 13). Nevertheless the matter of how the SSRC divides its authority structure is of some general interest, and so also are the rival claims of the two associations involved, of social administration as a discipline, and of sociology as a subject in need of research support.

The cry of "a plague on both your houses" is no more satisfying than is the belief that UDI, though bid for Rhodesia, is good for social administration.

Let us begin with the associations. Professor McGregor (*THES*, February 6) says that it is not for the SSRC to discriminate "against one professional body in the supposed interests of another". But this is to beg the case: is either body professional? Is the SSRC a professional association in the sense that the engineering institutions or the BMA or the Law Society so clearly are (and are these happy objects of institutions)?

I would suggest that for all their hating and snuffing they are clearly, nothing of the sort. Nor have they imposed themselves on the world of learning even to the degree—which I find regrettable—which has given the British Psychological Society so much clout. A decision of the Social Administration Association, the word is Professor McGregor's—is an interesting expression of opinion and nothing more. (The same goes for the BSA.)

Let us look further at the facts about social administration. I would not be so impetuous as to challenge an old friend like Professor McGregor to give an account which was at once true, coherent and defensible of social administration as a subject which was not also primarily an account of social administration as primarily a derivative from and a dependent on sociology.

The facts are that there are no social administrators—as distinct from teachers of social work—in higher education. There are distinguished sociologists like Professor Plummer, and sociologists like Professor McGregor, psychologists, economists, and political scientists in social administration departments. (There are also publicists and busybodies and practising politicians—but no department is ever free of such.) Such founding fathers as T. H. Marshall and Richard Titmuss quite clearly had individual academic provenance in definable disciplines.

Let us pursue the point further. In 10 years the SSRC and the foundations have invested in a great deal of research in "social administration". Would someone like to list work that is both good and specifically "social administration" from that decade? (Work, to be good, I suggest must satisfy several criteria including that of opening paths to further research of quality.) Or let us look at first degrees in social administration.

Some of the degrees in this area seem to me exceptionally well designed. I think of the one at Exeter, I think of the design in polytechnics than in universities. But it is surely clear that anything which deserves to be an honours degree ought to give the better students knowledge, skills and critical competence so that, if they wish, they can go on to studies and researches at the least up to the PhD level.

I can think of no decent honours degree in the social administration area in which such studies and researches are not central.

## Inequality and growth

from Simon Jones

Sir,—Professor Peston writes: "It is noteworthy that the Public Expenditure White Paper contains no section on inequality." However, if we take the last White Paper (Cmd. 5879) and the first table of figures, the growth and rate of resources will be seen that the growth of publicly financed private consumption is set at 4.4 per cent per annum.

This is, in effect, the planned growth of national insurance and social security benefits, and relates to the living standards of the poor. Furthermore, this rate of growth is invariant with respect to the rate of growth of the economy as a whole.

In contrast, private consumption, which is privately financed, is out-

searches would not normally come under the rubric of sociology. Thus, though such degrees involve an element of synthesis—and why not?—it is hard to deny what is their core, and that core is sociology. (There are, also, degrees made up of unrelated pieces badly joined together to use the language of sociology of "mechanical", not "organic" solidarity but one would not wish to defend them under whatever title they go forth.)

All these things may change. I would like to see stronger omens than the mere assertions of interested parties. (One road to change might be by way of philosophical studies, but it is not being taken.) But from the above it should be clear that a new employment of SSRC resources and committees is undesirable.

It is no good saying (*THES*, February 13) that "the SSRC has no standing in the internal affairs of disciplines". In a perfect world this would be true, and also there would be no case for an SSRC. But in the real world its standing has been and is immense. Sociology has benefited very little. Either the SSRC should be neutral towards all disciplines, or it should be moved by considerations of the "Rothschild ideology" kind—I put the slightly unfair phrase in quotes—and by government.

Long before "Rothschild" the SSRC bias in sociology—it goes back to its foundation—has been to "users" and to the claims of fashionable public virtue and to research, for example, "action research" and futurology. Now there was no wickedness in this. The result, however, has been that sociologists with sociological problems have been reluctant to go to the SSRC for help by it, and the subject has suffered.

The long, forced marriage with social administration has been a sterilizing experience. Let social administration look after itself and justify itself by works if it can and let us see an SSRC committee in sociology alertly caring for that fruitful discipline.

Yours sincerely,

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administration is certainly recognizable in the works of Titmuss and Townsend, to name but two, and what modern social administration course would be satisfactory without including such contributions as, say, Atkinson's *The Economics of Inequality*?

Economics dominated development studies for a long time but recall some of the havoc economists wrought on the Third World. Experience shows us that until problem-oriented areas are established as entities in their own right, rather than historically bound appendages of some discipline, they will never realize their potential.

Yours faithfully,

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**ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE**  
Tutor in  
**MATHEMATICS**  
The College wishes to appoint a tutor in English as a Foreign Language and a tutor in Mathematics with effect from September, 1976. The appointments, which are open to men and women, will be full-time and for one year in the first instance. Applicants should be graduates with appropriate teaching qualifications and experience. Salary: £2,500. Application forms and further information may be obtained from the Principal, Richmond College, Friars Site Road, Richmond, Surrey. Applications should be returned by Friday, March 12th.

**LECTURESHIPS IN ACCOUNTANCY (Two posts)**  
Applications are invited for two posts of Lecturer in Accountancy. The posts are for the teaching of Accounting and Financial Accounting. The post holders should have a first class honours degree in Accountancy or a related subject. The salary will be in the range £10,000 to £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Director of Staff, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, by 15th March 1976.

**Administrator**  
Expanding School for Independent Study responsible for innovative DiPE and other programmes requires a School Administrator. Person appointed will act as its Head, a busy team of Administrators and Specialists whose work includes: admissions, resource management, registration and admissions, servicing of complaints, public relations, academic policies and administration. Starting salary dependent on age, experience and qualifications. Salary Scale £3,183 to £3,953 including London Weighting. Further information and application forms available from the Personnel Office, Ref. 524/289, North East London Polytechnic, (London) 01-355 0011 ext. 22. Closing date March 5, 1976.

**PLYMOUTH POLYTECHNIC**  
School of Electrical Engineering  
**RESEARCH ASSISTANT**  
**NETWORK SWITCHING IN COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS**  
This project is a joint venture between the Polytechnic and the OGC Company, where some time will be spent in the early stages. The post demands high academic qualifications and where appropriate some industrial experience. Research Assistants are normally required to register for a higher degree, although post-doctoral applicants can be considered. Appointment is for a period of two years with the possibility of a third year, and carries an initial salary of £2,400 or £2,775 with annual increments. Research Assistants under £2,400 are paid £1,000 per annum. Applications to be returned by 15th March 1976, obtainable with further particulars from Personnel Office.

**MANCHESTER MANCHESTER POLYTECHNIC**  
FACULTY OF ART AND DESIGN  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION ARTS AND DESIGN**  
**PRINCIPAL LECTURER: DESIGN FOR LEARNING**  
The Department is in the process of creating a new course for a new B.A. (Hons.) course in Design for Learning. The post holder should have a first class honours degree in Design or a related subject. The salary will be in the range £10,000 to £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Director of Staff, Manchester Polytechnic, Oxford Road, Manchester M6 9PU, by 15th March 1976.

**SHEFFIELD THE POLYTECHNIC**  
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING  
**PRINCIPAL LECTURER IN CIVIL ENGINEERING**  
Applications are invited for the post of Principal Lecturer in Civil Engineering. The post holder should have a first class honours degree in Civil Engineering or a related subject. The salary will be in the range £10,000 to £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Director of Staff, Sheffield Polytechnic, Sheffield S1 1WB, by 15th March 1976.

**TEESIDE THE POLYTECHNIC**  
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING  
**PRINCIPAL LECTURER IN CIVIL ENGINEERING**  
Applications are invited for the post of Principal Lecturer in Civil Engineering. The post holder should have a first class honours degree in Civil Engineering or a related subject. The salary will be in the range £10,000 to £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Director of Staff, Teeside Polytechnic, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS6 7AL, by 15th March 1976.

Colleges of Education

**ROEHAMPTON INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**Appointment of PRINCIPAL**  
The Governors of SOUTHLANDS COLLEGE (Methodist Foundation) invite applications for the post of PRINCIPAL which will become vacant upon the retirement of Mrs Pauline Callard in August 1977. Particulars of the appointment are available from the Clerk to the Governors, Southlands College, Wimborne Parkside, London SW19 5NN (Tel. 01-848 2234). Closing date for applications 18th March 1976.

**ESSEX COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**PRINCIPAL LECTURER IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**  
The Department of Business Administration is seeking a Principal Lecturer. The post holder should have a first class honours degree in Business Administration or a related subject. The salary will be in the range £10,000 to £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Director of Staff, Essex College of Higher Education, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QJ, by 15th March 1976.

**NORWICH KIRKBY HALL**  
**PRINCIPAL LECTURER IN EDUCATION**  
Applications are invited for the post of Principal Lecturer in Education. The post holder should have a first class honours degree in Education or a related subject. The salary will be in the range £10,000 to £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Director of Staff, Norwich College of Education, Norwich NR1 1AA, by 15th March 1976.

Courses

**North East London Polytechnic - Essex County Council**  
**Anglian Regional Management Centre**

**Diploma in Management Studies (Education)**  
Applications are invited for the programme leading to the Diploma in Management Studies (Education) which will be offered on a day release basis over 2 years commencing at Danbury Park in September, 1976. The Course is based on a series of modules, each dealing with a major aspect of management in the education service. It is intended for those people who are in a position of some administrative responsibility, with a career commitment in Education Management in schools, colleges, polytechnics, universities, local government, and educational service. Further details may be obtained from: The Registrar, Mrs. A. N. Highmore, Anglian Regional Management Centre, Danbury Park, Danbury, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 4AT. Telephone: Danbury 2141 (024-541 2141).

**THE NATIONAL FILM SCHOOL**  
is now accepting applications until 29th February for the course commencing October, 1976. The course is a full-time, three-year course leading to a degree in Film Studies. The School has its own facilities at Beaconsfield Film Studios for the professional training of writers, directors, producers, cameramen, editors and sound technicians. Write National Film School, Beaconsfield Film Studios, Station Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks. for details.

General Vacancies

**Associate Professor - Head of Mechanical Design**  
**£8,650-£9,800**  
The new Mechanical Design Branch is to teach all aspects of mechanical design, fabrication and production engineering, reliability and quality assurance. Instruction will be given to the first degree course, to higher degree courses in Guided Weapons and Military Vehicle Technology, to the Army Staff Course and to other short courses. The Associate Professor who will head the new faculty will set up the Branch and, thereafter, be responsible for its teaching, assisted by a staff of six, including four lecturers. The successful candidate will also be expected to initiate, stimulate and guide relevant research. Candidates should have a 1st or 2nd class honours degree (or equivalent qualification) in an appropriate subject and must have relevant professional and administrative experience. Preference will be given to those with a knowledge of weapon technology and experience of teaching at University level. Starting salary will be within the range shown above and there is a non-contributory pension scheme. The post is based at the College in Shrivenham, Wiltshire, where accommodation can be provided for a single candidate in a Hall of Residence. There is a possibility of housing for a married person. For further details and an application form (to be returned by 12 March, 1976) write to the Civil Service Commission, Alcon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1U, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 88581 (answering service operates outside office hours) or London 01-839 1082 (24 hour answering service). Please quote ref. 5/8246/2.

Royal Military College of Science Shrivenham

Overseas

**PhD and fluent in Arabic?**  
The College of Commerce at the University of Riyadh, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia is accepting applications from qualified Professors/Lecturers who can teach in Arabic (Ph.D. is required) in the following areas:-  
Economic Theory  
Petroleum Economics  
Industrial Economics  
Political Science  
Government Systems in Islam  
International Relations  
Comparative Public Administration  
Personnel Administration (Public Administration)  
Public Finance  
Finance & Financial Management  
Personnel Management and Industrial Relations  
Mathematics and Statistics  
Cost Accounting - Financial Accounting  
Applicants are requested to submit their applications along with copies of their academic degrees, transcripts, and evidence of past experience no later than March 1st 1976, to the following address. The selected candidates will be advised of the result. Dean, College of Commerce, University of Riyadh, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

**AUSTRALIA LECTURER IN EDUCATIONAL SOCIOLOGY**  
Salary \$A394.60/620.70 per fortnight.  
Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education, Toowoomba  
Applications are invited for the position of Lecturer in Educational Sociology at the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education, a regional college of advanced education located in the Garden City of Toowoomba, 140km (80 miles) west of Brisbane. It is hoped that the appointee could commence duties during July or August, 1976. The Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education was established in 1967, is autonomous and offers degree courses in Civil-Agricultural-Electrical-Mechanical Engineering, Applied Science, Education and Business Studies. In addition a well established School of Arts offers Diplomas in both creative and liberal arts. The Institute serves Southern Queensland west of the Great Dividing Range and has a population base of 200,000 persons. The Institute currently has a full-time student population of 1,700 and fosters innovative approaches to academic course organization and teaching. Toowoomba is an attractive city of 35,000 people and boasts first class educational, cultural and medical facilities. The annual average temperature range is 45 degrees F (-7 degrees C). Toowoomba residents can travel to the State Capital, Brisbane, within two hours and to the famous Gold Coast Resort within two and a half hours. The position being advertised will require an appointee with a higher degree in Sociology or Education (with a course emphasis in the area of Educational Sociology). In addition, the appointee should have had successful teaching experience in both the Primary or Secondary, and Tertiary levels. In addition to offering courses in Educational Sociology to all students undertaking the Diploma of Teaching (Primary) and the Bachelor of Education Awards, the appointee will be expected to develop an advanced elective course in an area of his personal interest; also the appointee will be encouraged to undertake applied research. Application forms and further information available from The Agent-General for Queensland, 332/4 Strand, London WC2R 0LZ. Closing date: 8th March 1976.

Colleges of Further Education

**Buckinghamshire County Council Education Department**  
**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
Queen Alexandra Road, High Wycombe, Bucks.  
School of Management Studies and Languages  
**Senior Lecturer in Marketing**  
To commence as soon as possible. Applicants should be graduates with professional experience in international marketing and preferably some experience in education. The successful applicant will join a team of staff concerned with degree and postgraduate work in the general area of International Business. Salary Scale: £5,031-£5,955 p.a. - Bar - £8,417 p.a. Application forms and further particulars available from the Assistant Director, to whom completed forms should be returned as soon as possible.

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Colleges of Education continued

**MIDDLESEX NORTH LONDON COLLEGIATE SCHOOL**  
Canons, Edgware, Middlesex  
1072. ASSISTANT TEACHER in Secondary Mathematics through-out the school. Applicants should have good academic qualifications, 2:2 or better, and be prepared to undertake a period of probation. Applications should be sent to the Headmaster, North London Collegiate School, Canons, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 7EP, by 15th March 1976.

**LIVERPOOL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**  
Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in the Department of Education. The post holder should have a first class honours degree in Education or a related subject. The salary will be in the range £10,000 to £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Director of Staff, Liverpool College of Education, Liverpool L69 3GB, by 15th March 1976.

Council for National Academic Awards

**COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARDS**  
Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in the Department of Education. The post holder should have a first class honours degree in Education or a related subject. The salary will be in the range £10,000 to £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Director of Staff, Council for National Academic Awards, London WC2N 5RT, by 15th March 1976.

Courses

**LANCASHIRE COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in the Department of Education. The post holder should have a first class honours degree in Education or a related subject. The salary will be in the range £10,000 to £12,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Director of Staff, Lancashire College of Higher Education, Preston PR1 2TQ, by 15th March 1976.

**The next 'REVIEW OF NEW COURSES'**  
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